

**POLS/CSSS 503**

**Advanced Quantitative Political Methodology**

# **Models of Stationary & Non-Stationary Time Series**

Christopher Adolph\*  
University of Washington, Seattle

May 19, 2011

---

\*Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences.

# The story so far

We've learned:

- why our LS models don't work well with time series
- the basics of time series dynamics

Next steps:

- Estimate  $AR(p)$ ,  $MA(q)$ , and  $ARMA(p,q)$  models for stationary series
- Use our time series knowledge to select  $p$  and  $q$
- Use simulations to understand how  $\hat{y}_t$  changes as we vary  $\mathbf{x}_t$

## An AR(1) Regression Model

To create a regression model from the AR(1), we allow the mean of the process to shift by adding  $c_t$  to the equation:

$$y_t = y_{t-1}\phi_1 + c_t + \varepsilon_t$$

We then parameterize  $c_t$  as the sum of a set of time varying covariates,

$$x_{1t}, x_{2t}, x_{3t}, \dots$$

and their associated parameters,

$$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \dots$$

which we compactly write in matrix notation as  $c_t = \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta}$

## An AR(1) Regression Model

Substituting for  $c_t$ , we obtain the AR(1) regression model:

$$y_t = y_{t-1}\phi_1 + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

Estimation is by maximum likelihood, *not* LS

(We will discuss the LS version later)

MLE accounts for dependence of  $y_t$  on past values; complex derivation

Let's focus on interpreting this model in practice

## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

Suppose that a country's GDP follows this simple model

$$\text{GDP}_t = \phi_1 \text{GDP}_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

Suppose that a country's GDP follows this simple model

$$\text{GDP}_t = \phi_1 \text{GDP}_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\text{GDP}_t = 0.9 \times \text{GDP}_{t-1} + 10 + 2 \times \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

Suppose that at year  $t$ ,  $\text{GDP}_t = 100$ ,  
and the country is a non-democracy,  $\text{Democracy}_t = 0$ .

What would happen if we “made” this country a democracy in period  $t + 1$ ?

# Interpreting AR(1) parameters

$$y_t = y_{t-1}\phi_1 + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

Recall:

an AR(1) process can be viewed as the geometrically declining sum of all its past errors.

## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

$$y_t = y_{t-1}\phi_1 + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

Recall:

an AR(1) process can be viewed as the geometrically declining sum of all its past errors.

When we add the time-varying mean  $\mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta}$  to the equation, the following now holds:

$$y_t = (\mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t) + \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_{t-1}) + \phi_1^2(\mathbf{x}_{t-2}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_{t-2}) + \phi_1^3(\mathbf{x}_{t-3}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_{t-3}) + \dots$$

That is,  $y_t$  represents the sum of all past  $\mathbf{x}_t$ 's as filtered through  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  and  $\phi_1$



## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

Take a step back: suppose  $c_t$  is actually fixed for all time at  $c$ , so that  $c = c_t$

## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

Take a step back: suppose  $c_t$  is actually fixed for all time at  $c$ , so that  $c = c_t$

Now, we have

$$y_t = (c + \varepsilon_t) + \phi_1(c + \varepsilon_{t-1}) + \phi_1^2(c + \varepsilon_{t-2}) + \phi_1^3(c + \varepsilon_{t-3}) + \dots$$

## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

Take a step back: suppose  $c_t$  is actually fixed for all time at  $c$ , so that  $c = c_t$

Now, we have

$$\begin{aligned} y_t &= (c + \varepsilon_t) + \phi_1(c + \varepsilon_{t-1}) + \phi_1^2(c + \varepsilon_{t-2}) + \phi_1^3(c + \varepsilon_{t-3}) + \dots \\ &= \frac{c}{1 - \phi_1} + \varepsilon_t + \phi_1\varepsilon_{t-1} + \phi_1^2\varepsilon_{t-2} + \phi_1^3\varepsilon_{t-3} \dots \end{aligned}$$

which follows from the limits for infinite series

## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

Take a step back: suppose  $c_t$  is actually fixed for all time at  $c$ , so that  $c = c_t$

Now, we have

$$\begin{aligned} y_t &= (c + \varepsilon_t) + \phi_1(c + \varepsilon_{t-1}) + \phi_1^2(c + \varepsilon_{t-2}) + \phi_1^3(c + \varepsilon_{t-3}) + \dots \\ &= \frac{c}{1 - \phi_1} + \varepsilon_t + \phi_1\varepsilon_{t-1} + \phi_1^2\varepsilon_{t-2} + \phi_1^3\varepsilon_{t-3} \dots \end{aligned}$$

which follows from the limits for infinite series

Taking expectations removes everything but the first term:

$$E(y_t) = \frac{c}{1 - \phi_1}$$

Implication:

if, starting at time  $t$  and going forward to  $\infty$ ,

we fix  $x_t\beta$ ,

then  $y_t$  will converge to  $x_t\beta/(1 - \phi_1)$

## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

$$\text{GDP}_t = \phi_1 \text{GDP}_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\text{GDP}_t = 0.9 \times \text{GDP}_{t-1} + 10 + 2 \times \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

If at year  $t$ ,  $\text{GDP}_t = 100$  and the country is a non-democracy  $\text{Democracy}_t = 0$ , then:

This country is in a steady state:

it will tend to have GDP of 100 every period, with small errors from  $\varepsilon_t$  (verify this)

## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

$$\text{GDP}_t = \phi_1 \text{GDP}_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\text{GDP}_t = 0.9 \times \text{GDP}_{t-1} + 10 + 2 \times \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

Now suppose we make the country a democracy in period  $t + 1$ :

$$\text{Democracy}_{t+1} = 1.$$

The model predicts that in period  $t + 1$ , the level of GDP will rise by  $\beta = 2$ , to 102.

This *appears* to be a small effect, but. . .

## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

$$\text{GDP}_t = \phi_1 \text{GDP}_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\text{GDP}_t = 0.9 \times \text{GDP}_{t-1} + 10 + 2 \times \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

... the effect accumulates, so long as  $\text{Democracy} = 1$

$$E(\hat{y}_{t+2} | x_{t+2}) = 0.9 \times 102 + 10 + 2 = 103.8$$

## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

$$\text{GDP}_t = \phi_1 \text{GDP}_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\text{GDP}_t = 0.9 \times \text{GDP}_{t-1} + 10 + 2 \times \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

... the effect accumulates, so long as Democracy = 1

$$\text{E}(\hat{y}_{t+2}|x_{t+2}) = 0.9 \times 102 + 10 + 2 = 103.8$$

$$\text{E}(\hat{y}_{t+3}|x_{t+3}) = 0.9 \times 103.8 + 10 + 2 = 105.42$$



## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

$$\text{GDP}_t = \phi_1 \text{GDP}_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\text{GDP}_t = 0.9 \times \text{GDP}_{t-1} + 10 + 2 \times \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

... the effect accumulates, so long as Democracy = 1

$$\text{E}(\hat{y}_{t+2}|x_{t+2}) = 0.9 \times 102 + 10 + 2 = 103.8$$

$$\text{E}(\hat{y}_{t+3}|x_{t+3}) = 0.9 \times 103.8 + 10 + 2 = 105.42$$

$$\text{E}(\hat{y}_{t+4}|x_{t+4}) = 0.9 \times 105.42 + 10 + 2 = 106.878$$

## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

$$\text{GDP}_t = \phi_1 \text{GDP}_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\text{GDP}_t = 0.9 \times \text{GDP}_{t-1} + 10 + 2 \times \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

... the effect accumulates, so long as Democracy = 1

$$E(\hat{y}_{t+2}|x_{t+2}) = 0.9 \times 102 + 10 + 2 = 103.8$$

$$E(\hat{y}_{t+3}|x_{t+3}) = 0.9 \times 103.8 + 10 + 2 = 105.42$$

$$E(\hat{y}_{t+4}|x_{t+4}) = 0.9 \times 105.42 + 10 + 2 = 106.878$$

...

$$E(\hat{y}_{t=\infty}|x_{t=\infty}) = (10 + 2)/(1 - 0.9) = 120$$

So is this a big effect or a small effect?

## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

$$E(\hat{y}_{t=\infty}|x_{t=\infty}) = (10 + 2)/(1 - 0.9) = 120$$

So is this a big effect or a small effect?

It depends on the length of time your covariates remain fixed.

Many comparative politics variables change rarely, so their effects accumulate slowly over time (e.g., institutions)

Presenting only  $\beta_1$ , rather than the accumulated change in  $y_t$  after  $x_t$  changes, could drastically *understate* the relative substantive importance of our comparative political covariates compared to rapidly changing covariates

This understatement gets larger the closer  $\phi_1$  gets to 1  
—which is where our  $\phi_1$ 's tend to be!

## Interpreting AR(1) parameters

Recommendation:

Simulate the change in  $y_t$  given a change in  $x_t$  through enough periods to capture the real-world impact of your variables

If you are studying partisan effects, and new parties tend to stay in power 5 years, don't report  $\beta_1$  or the one-year change in  $y$ . Iterate out to five years.

What is the confidence interval around these cumulative changes in  $y$  given a permanent change in  $x$ ?

A complex function of the se's of  $\phi$  and  $\beta$

So simulate out to  $y_{t+k}$  using draws from the estimated distributions of  $\hat{\phi}$  and  $\hat{\beta}$

R will help with this, using `predict()` and (in `simcf`), `ldvsimev()`

## Example: UK vehicle accident deaths

Number of monthly deaths and serious injuries in UK road accidents

Data range from January 1969 to December 1984.

In February 1983, a new law requiring seat belt use took effect

Source: Harvey, 1989, p.519ff.

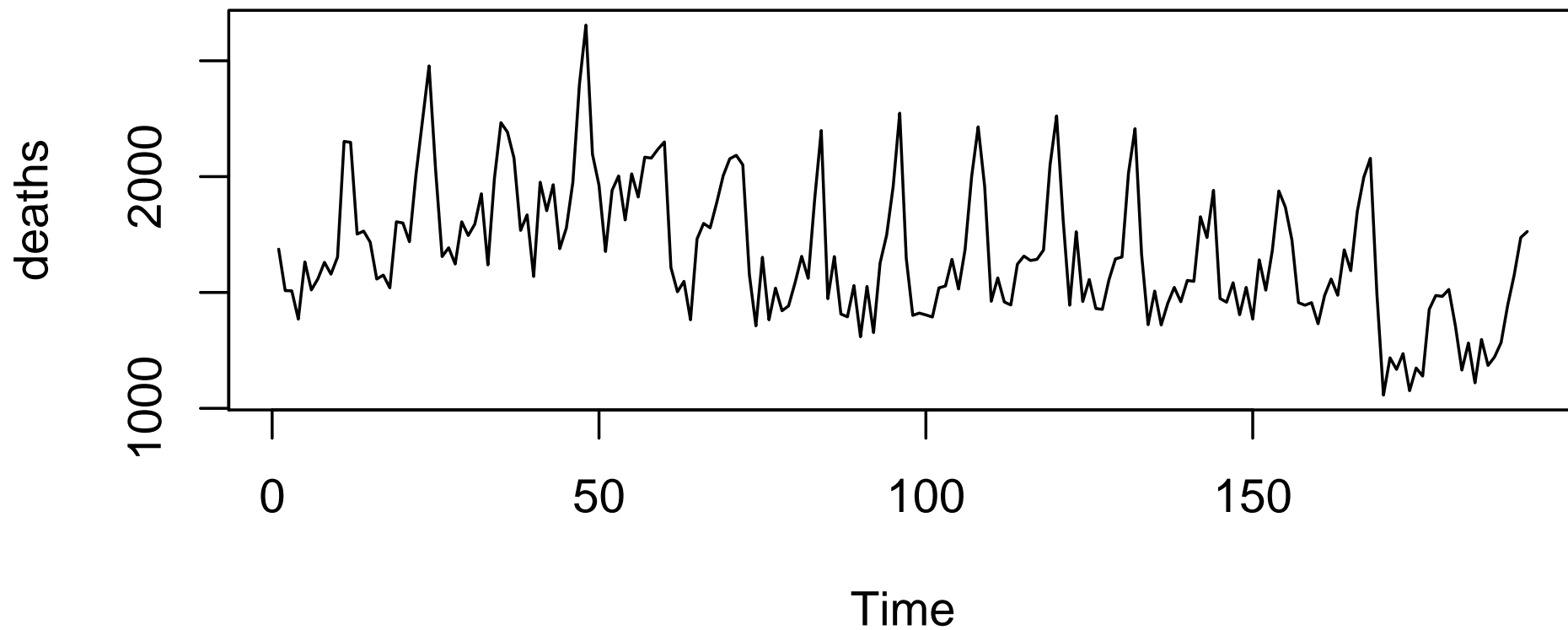
<http://www.staff.city.ac.uk/~sc397/courses/3ts/datasets.html>

Simple, likely stationary data

Simplest possible covariate: a single dummy

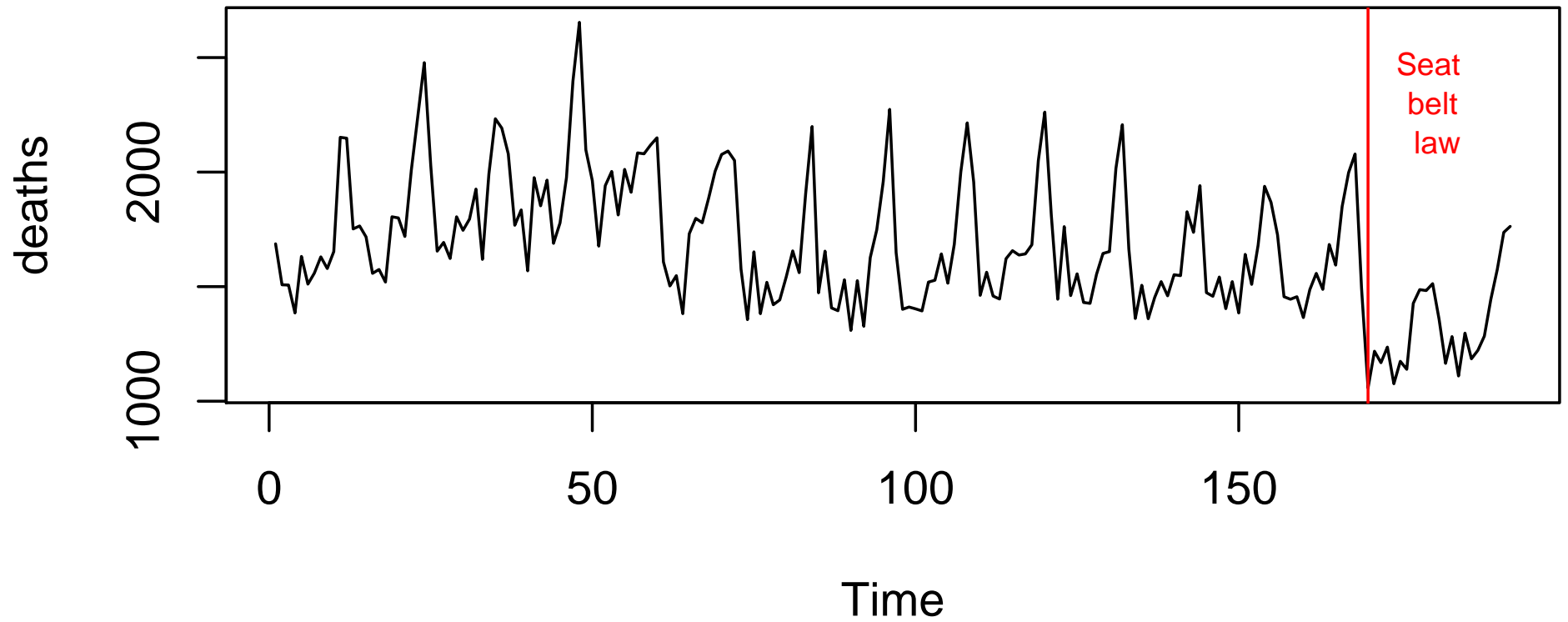
# The time series

## Vehicular accident deaths, UK, 1969–1984



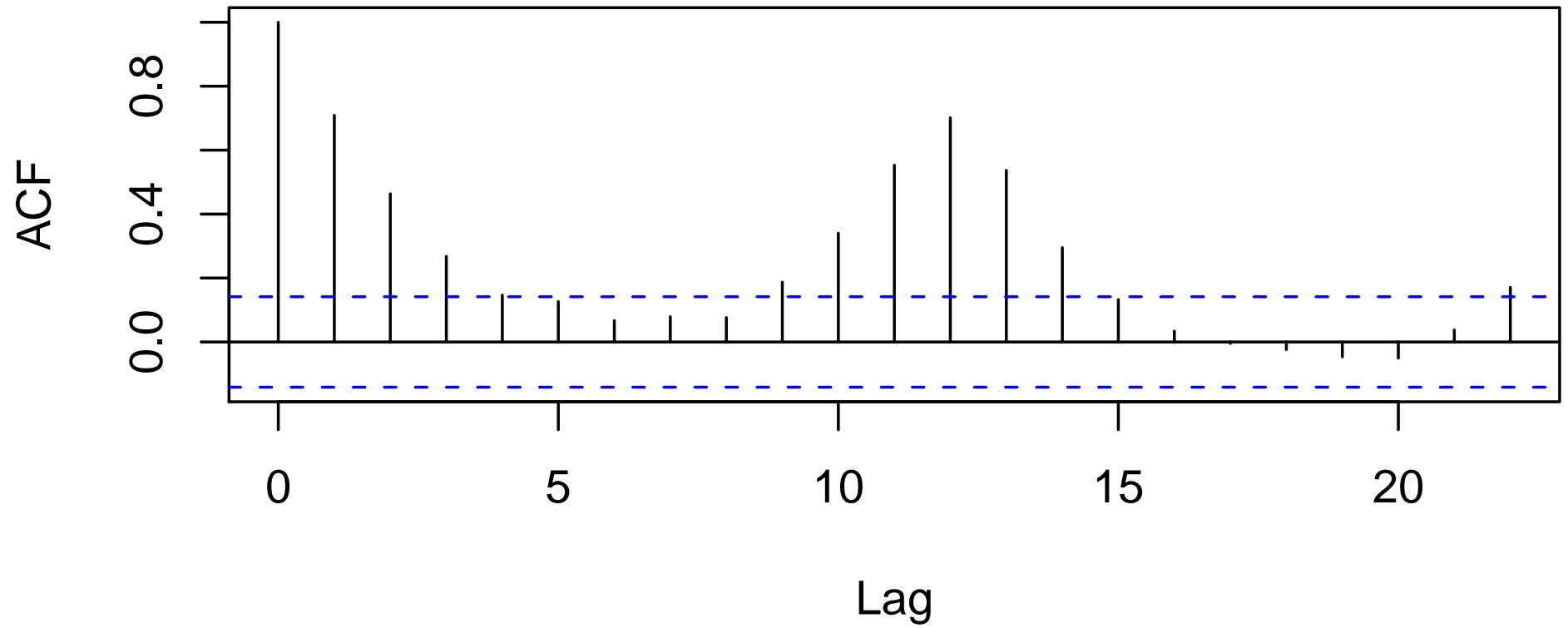
# The time series

## Vehicular accident deaths, UK, 1969–1984



ACF

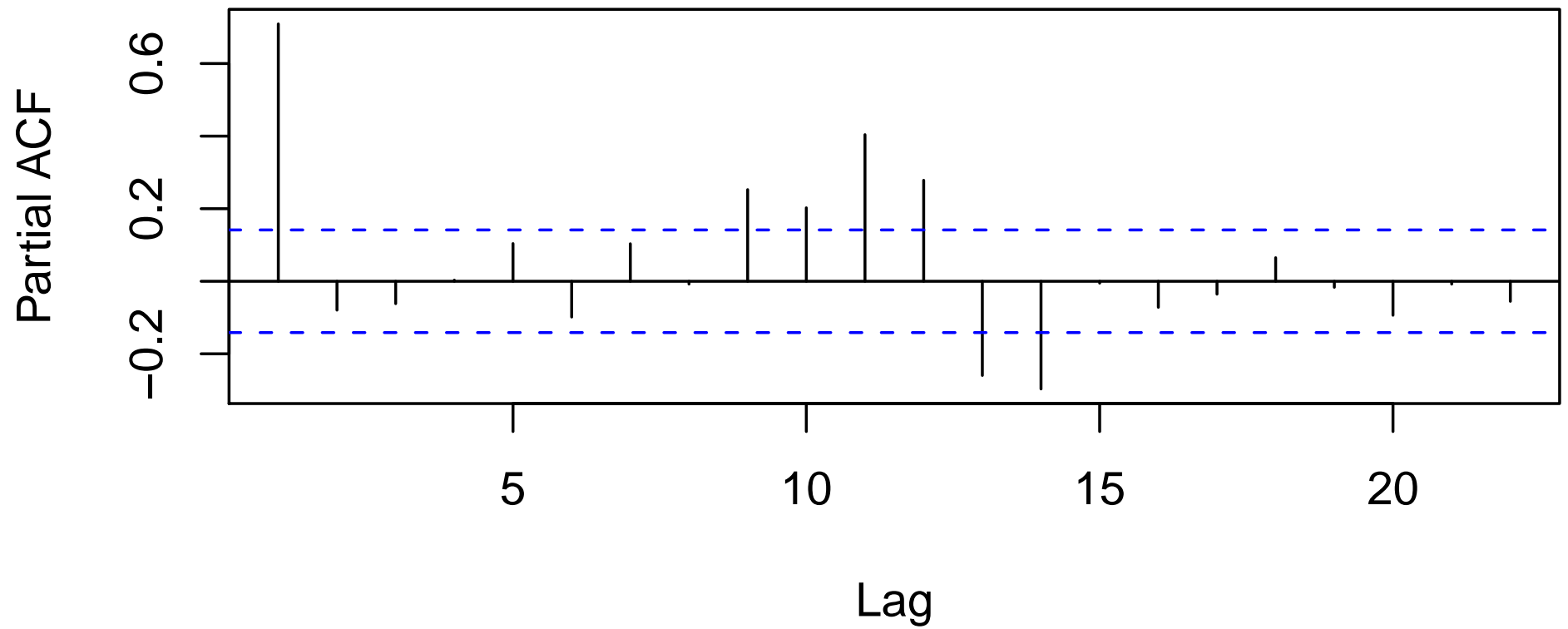
Series death





# Partial ACF

**Series death**



## AR(1) specification

```
## Estimate an AR(1) using arima
xcovariates <- law
arima.res1a <- arima(death, order = c(1,0,0),
                     xreg = xcovariates, include.mean = TRUE
                     )
```

Coefficients:

|      | ar1   | intercept | xcovariates |
|------|-------|-----------|-------------|
|      | 0.644 | 1719.19   | -377.5      |
| s.e. | 0.055 | 42.08     | 107.7       |

sigma<sup>2</sup> estimated as 39289: log likelihood = -1288, aic = 2585

## AR(1) specification with Q4 control

```
## Estimate an AR(1) using arima
xcovariates <- c(q4,law)
arima.res1a <- arima(death, order = c(1,0,0),
                     xreg = xcovariates, include.mean = TRUE
                     )
```

Coefficients:

|      | ar1   | intercept | q4    | law    |
|------|-------|-----------|-------|--------|
|      | 0.535 | 1638.03   | 324.6 | -395.7 |
| s.e. | 0.064 | 28.12     | 34.5  | 72.3   |

sigma^2 estimated as 26669: log likelihood = -1251, aic = 2512

What is the effect of adding the law?

In period  $t + 1?$        $t + 12?$        $t + 60$

How “significant” is this effect over those periods?

## An AR(p) Regression Model

The AR(p) regression model is a straightforward extension of the AR(1)

$$y_t = y_{t-1}\phi_1 + y_{t-2}\phi_2 + \dots + y_{t-p}\phi_p + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

Note that for fixed mean,  $y_t$  now converges to

$$E(y_t) = \frac{c}{1 - \phi_1 - \phi_2 - \phi_3 - \dots - \phi_p}$$

Implication:

if, starting at time  $t$  and going forward to  $\infty$ , we fix  $\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}$ ,  
then  $y_t$  will converge to  $\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}/(1 - \phi_1 - \phi_2 - \phi_3 - \dots - \phi_p)$

Estimation and interpretation similar to above & uses same R functions

## MA(1) Models

To create a regression model from the MA(1):

$$y_t = \varepsilon_{t-1}\rho_1 + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

Estimation is again by maximum likelihood

Once again a complex procedure, but still a generalization of the Normal case

Any dynamic effects in this model are quickly mean reverting

## ARMA(p,q): Putting it all together

To create a regression model from the ARMA(p,q):

$$y_t = y_{t-1}\phi_1 + y_{t-2}\phi_2 + \dots + y_{t-p}\phi_p + \varepsilon_{t-1}\rho_1 + \varepsilon_{t-2}\rho_2 + \dots + \varepsilon_{t-q}\rho_q + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

Will need a MLE to obtain  $\hat{\phi}$ ,  $\hat{\rho}$ , and  $\hat{\beta}$

Once again a complex procedure, but still a generalization of the Normal case

Note the AR(p) process dominates in two senses:

- Stationarity determined just by AR(p) part of ARMA(p,q)
- Long-run level determined just by AR(p) terms: still  $\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\beta}/(1 - \sum_p \phi_p)$

## AR(1,1) specification: Model 1c

```
xcovariates <- cbind(q4,law)
arima.res1c <- arima(death, order = c(1,0,1),
                     xreg = xcovariates, include.mean = TRUE
                     )
```

Coefficients:

|      | ar1   | ma1    | intercept | q4     | law     |
|------|-------|--------|-----------|--------|---------|
|      | 0.958 | -0.768 | 1619.48   | 391.64 | -384.56 |
| s.e. | 0.029 | 0.075  | 59.38     | 26.28  | 85.92   |

sigma<sup>2</sup> estimated as 24572: log likelihood = -1243, aic = 2499

## AR(1,2) specification: Model 1d

```
xcovariates <- cbind(q4,law)
arima.res1d <- arima(death, order = c(1,0,2),
                     xreg = xcovariates, include.mean = TRUE
                     )
```

Coefficients:

|      | ar1   | ma1    | ma2    | intercept | q4     | law     |
|------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|---------|
|      | 0.965 | -0.665 | -0.133 | 1622.1    | 378.19 | -377.03 |
| s.e. | 0.023 | 0.076  | 0.067  | 61.8      | 28.67  | 85.58   |

sigma<sup>2</sup> estimated as 24097: log likelihood = -1241, aic = 2497



## AR(1,3) specification: Model 1e

```
xcovariates <- cbind(q4,law)
arima.res1e <- arima(death, order = c(1,0,3),
                     xreg = xcovariates, include.mean = TRUE
                     )
```

Coefficients:

|      | ar1   | ma1    | ma2    | ma3    | intercept | q4     | law     |
|------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|---------|
|      | 0.967 | -0.637 | -0.102 | -0.067 | 1623.7    | 371.57 | -373.97 |
| s.e. | 0.022 | 0.083  | 0.078  | 0.073  | 61.9      | 30.16  | 86.58   |

sigma<sup>2</sup> estimated as 23995: log likelihood = -1241, aic = 2498

## AR(1,3) specification: Model 1f

```
xcovariates <- cbind(q4,law)
arima.res1f <- arima(death, order = c(2,0,1),
                     xreg = xcovariates, include.mean = TRUE
                     )
```

Coefficients:

|      | ar1   | ar2    | ma1    | intercept | q4     | law     |
|------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|---------|
|      | 1.155 | -0.182 | -0.840 | 1622.53   | 374.31 | -375.38 |
| s.e. | 0.098 | 0.091  | 0.054  | 61.92     | 30.00  | 86.11   |

sigma^2 estimated as 24060: log likelihood = -1241, aic = 2497

## Selected model 1: ARMA(1,2)

```
xcovariates <- cbind(q4,law)
arima.res1d <- arima(death, order = c(1,0,2),
                     xreg = xcovariates, include.mean = TRUE
                     )
```

Coefficients:

|      | ar1   | ma1    | ma2    | intercept | q4     | law     |
|------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|---------|
|      | 0.965 | -0.665 | -0.133 | 1622.1    | 378.19 | -377.03 |
| s.e. | 0.023 | 0.076  | 0.067  | 61.8      | 28.67  | 85.58   |

sigma<sup>2</sup> estimated as 24097: log likelihood = -1241, aic = 2497

What does this mean?

Where does this series go in the limit?

# Counterfactual forecasting

1. Start in period  $t$  with the observed  $y_t$  and  $\mathbf{x}_t$

# Counterfactual forecasting

1. Start in period  $t$  with the observed  $y_t$  and  $\mathbf{x}_t$
2. Choose hypothetical  $\mathbf{x}_{c,t}$  for every period  $t$  to  $t + k$  you wish to forecast

# Counterfactual forecasting

1. Start in period  $t$  with the observed  $y_t$  and  $\mathbf{x}_t$
2. Choose hypothetical  $\mathbf{x}_{c,t}$  for every period  $t$  to  $t + k$  you wish to forecast
3. Estimate  $\beta$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\sigma^2$

# Counterfactual forecasting

1. Start in period  $t$  with the observed  $y_t$  and  $\mathbf{x}_t$
2. Choose hypothetical  $\mathbf{x}_{c,t}$  for every period  $t$  to  $t + k$  you wish to forecast
3. Estimate  $\beta$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\sigma^2$
4. Draw a vector of these parameters from their predictive distribution as estimated by the MLE

# Counterfactual forecasting

1. Start in period  $t$  with the observed  $y_t$  and  $\mathbf{x}_t$
2. Choose hypothetical  $\mathbf{x}_{c,t}$  for every period  $t$  to  $t + k$  you wish to forecast
3. Estimate  $\beta$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\sigma^2$
4. Draw a vector of these parameters from their predictive distribution as estimated by the MLE
5. Calculate one simulated value of  $\tilde{y}$  for the next step,  $t + 1$ , using:

$$\tilde{y}_{t+1} = \sum_p y_{t-p} \tilde{\phi}_p + \mathbf{x}_{c,t+1} \tilde{\beta} + \sum_q \varepsilon_{t+q} \tilde{\rho}_q + \tilde{\varepsilon}_t$$



# Counterfactual forecasting

1. Start in period  $t$  with the observed  $y_t$  and  $\mathbf{x}_t$
2. Choose hypothetical  $\mathbf{x}_{c,t}$  for every period  $t$  to  $t + k$  you wish to forecast
3. Estimate  $\beta$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\sigma^2$
4. Draw a vector of these parameters from their predictive distribution as estimated by the MLE
5. Calculate one simulated value of  $\tilde{y}$  for the next step,  $t + 1$ , using:

$$\tilde{y}_{t+1} = \sum_p y_{t-p} \tilde{\phi}_p + \mathbf{x}_{c,t+1} \tilde{\beta} + \sum_q \varepsilon_{t+q} \tilde{\rho}_q + \tilde{\varepsilon}_t$$

6. Move to the next period,  $t + 2$ , and using the past actual *and* forecast values of  $y_t$  and  $\varepsilon_t$  as lags; repeat until you reach period  $t + k$

7. You have one simulated forecast. Repeat steps 4–6 until you have many (say, 1000) simulated forecasts. These are your predicted values, and can be summarized by a mean and predictive intervals

7. You have one simulated forecast. Repeat steps 4–6 until you have many (say, 1000) simulated forecasts. These are your predicted values, and can be summarized by a mean and predictive intervals
8. To get a simulated expected forecast, repeat step 7 many times (say 1000), each time taking the average forecast. You now have a vector of 1000 expected forecasts, and can summarize them with a mean and confidence intervals

## Effect of repealing seatbelt law?

What does the model predict would happen if we repealed the law?

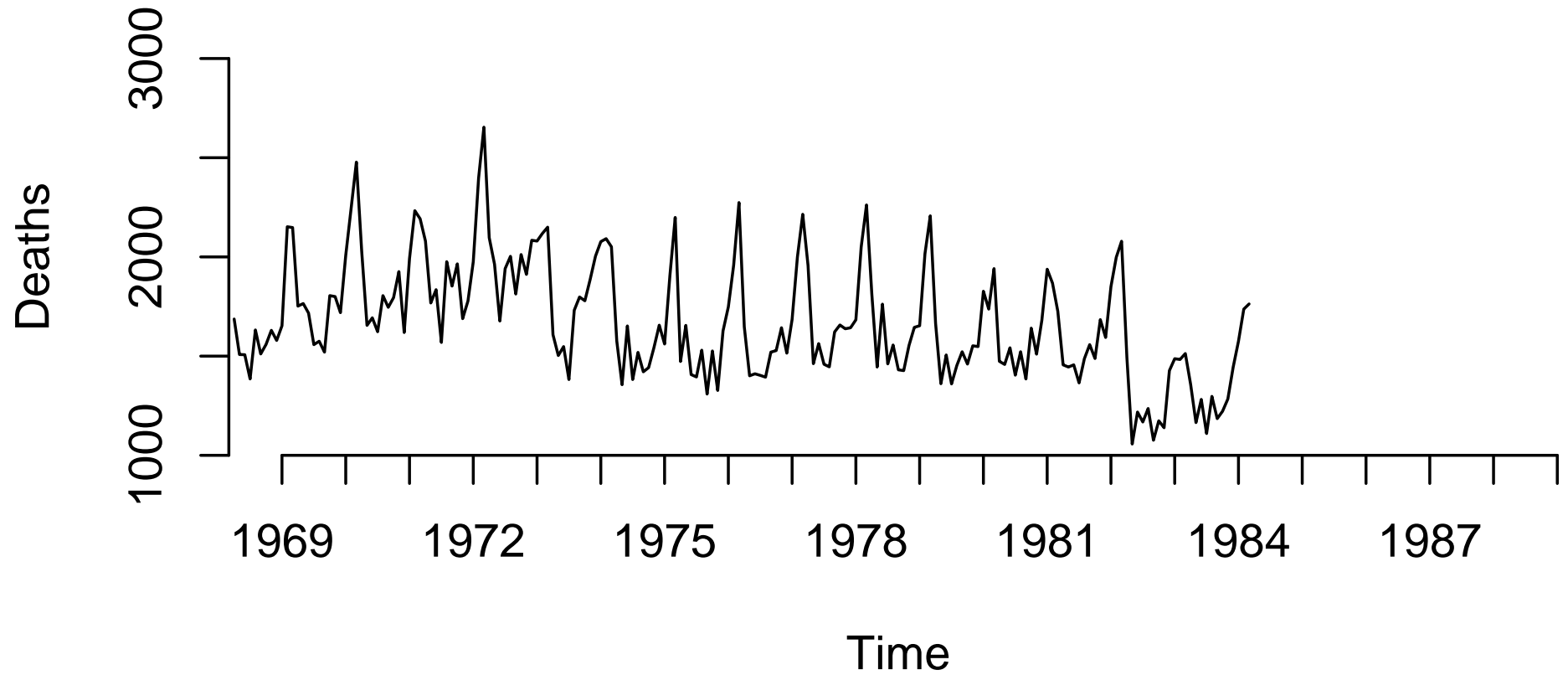
How much would deaths increase after one month? One year? Five years?

If we run this experiment, how much might the results vary from model expectations?

Need forecast deaths—no law for the next 60 periods, plus predictive intervals

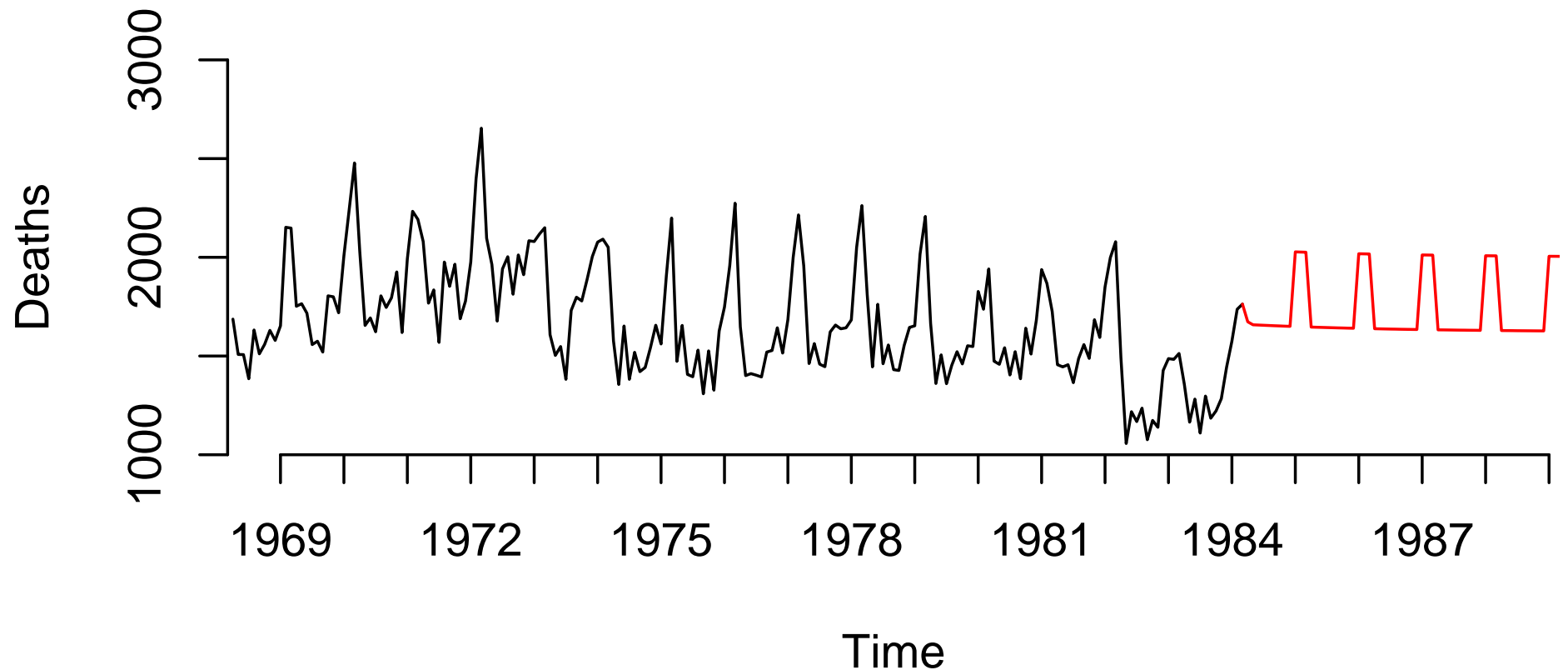
```
predict(arima.res1,          # The model
        n.ahead = 60,       # predict out 60 periods
        newxreg = newdata)   # using these counterfactual x's
```

## Predicted effect of reversing seat belt law



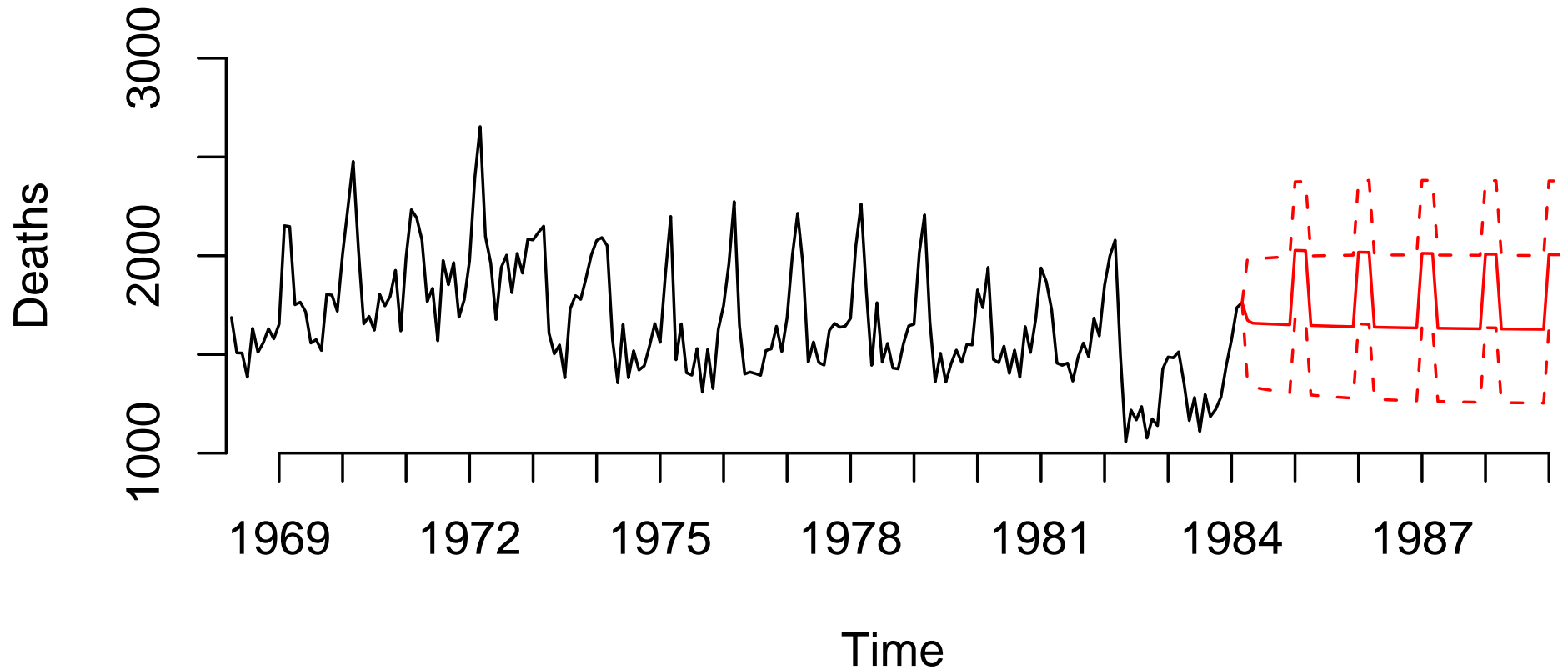
The observed time series

## Predicted effect of reversing seat belt law



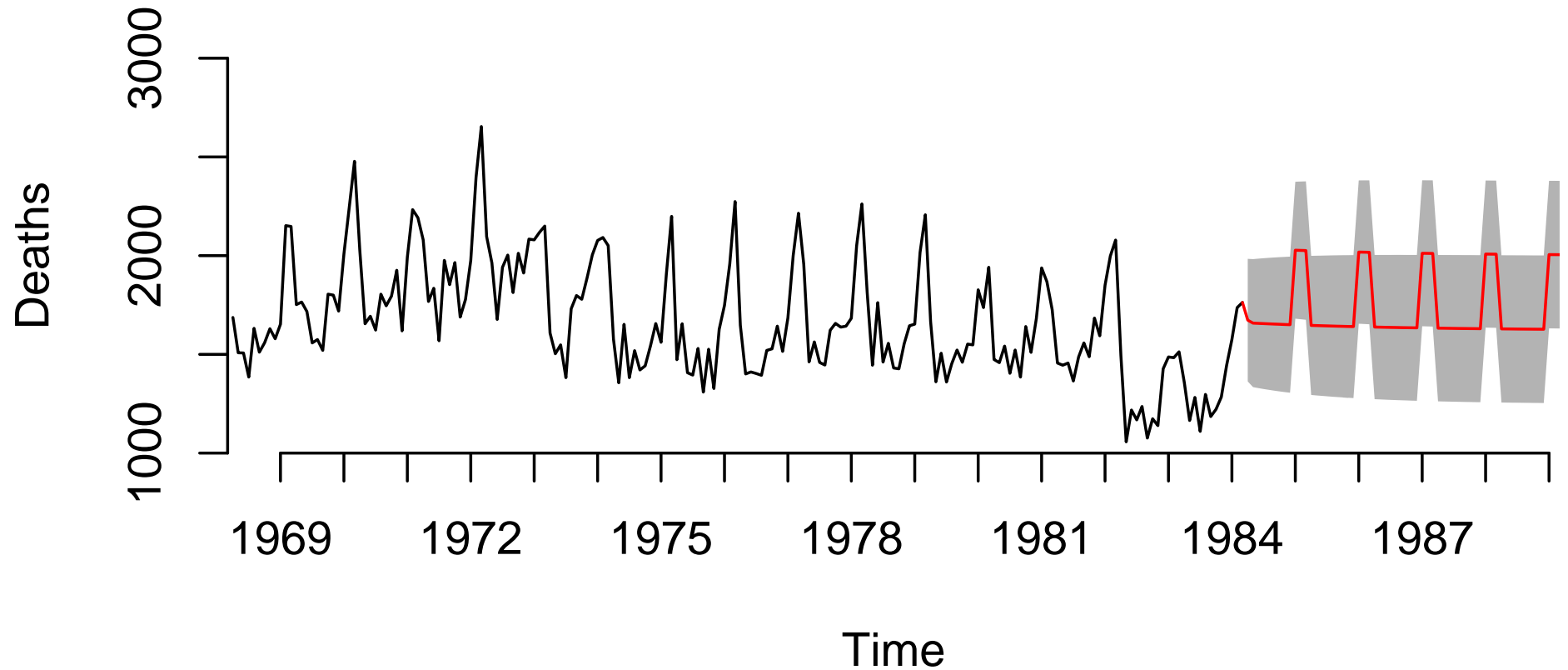
What the model predicts would happen if the seat belt requirement is *repealed*

## Predicted effect of reversing seat belt law



adding the 95 % predictive interval

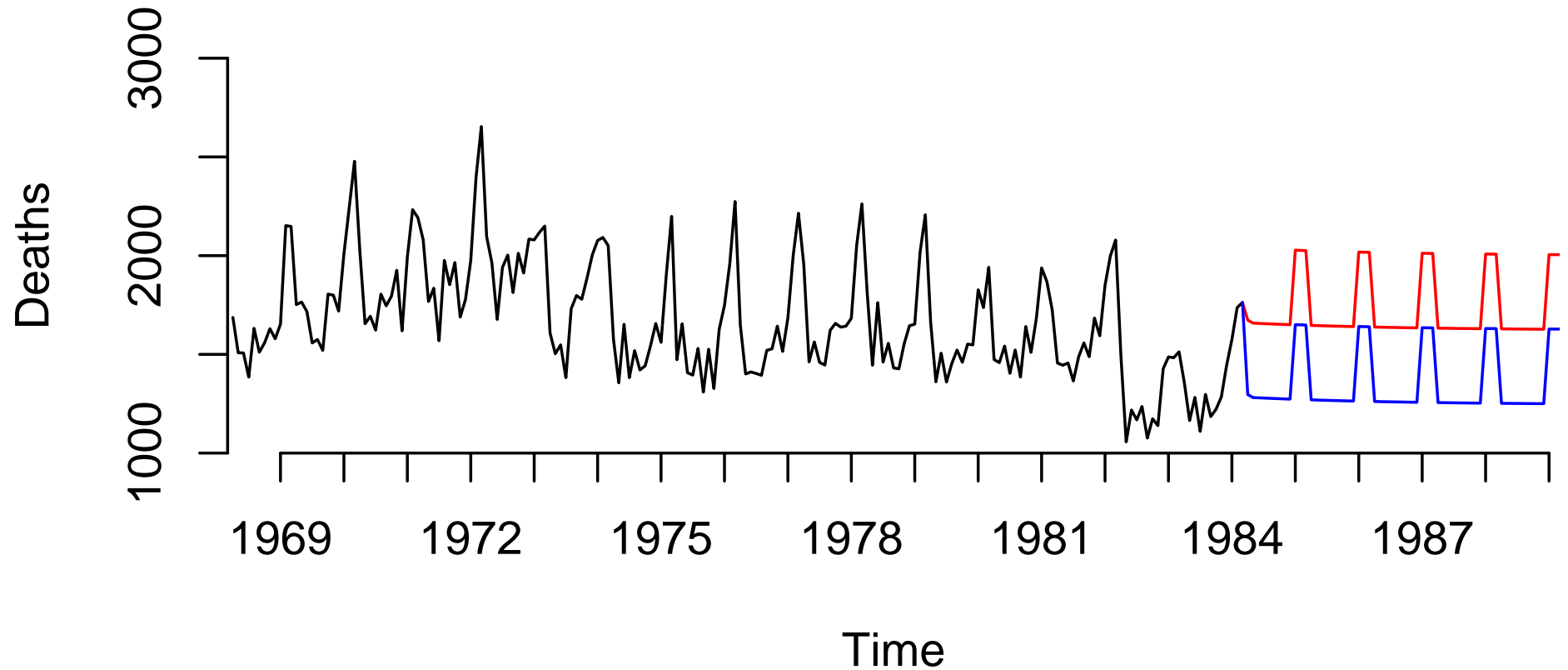
## Predicted effect of reversing seat belt law



which is easier to read as a polygon

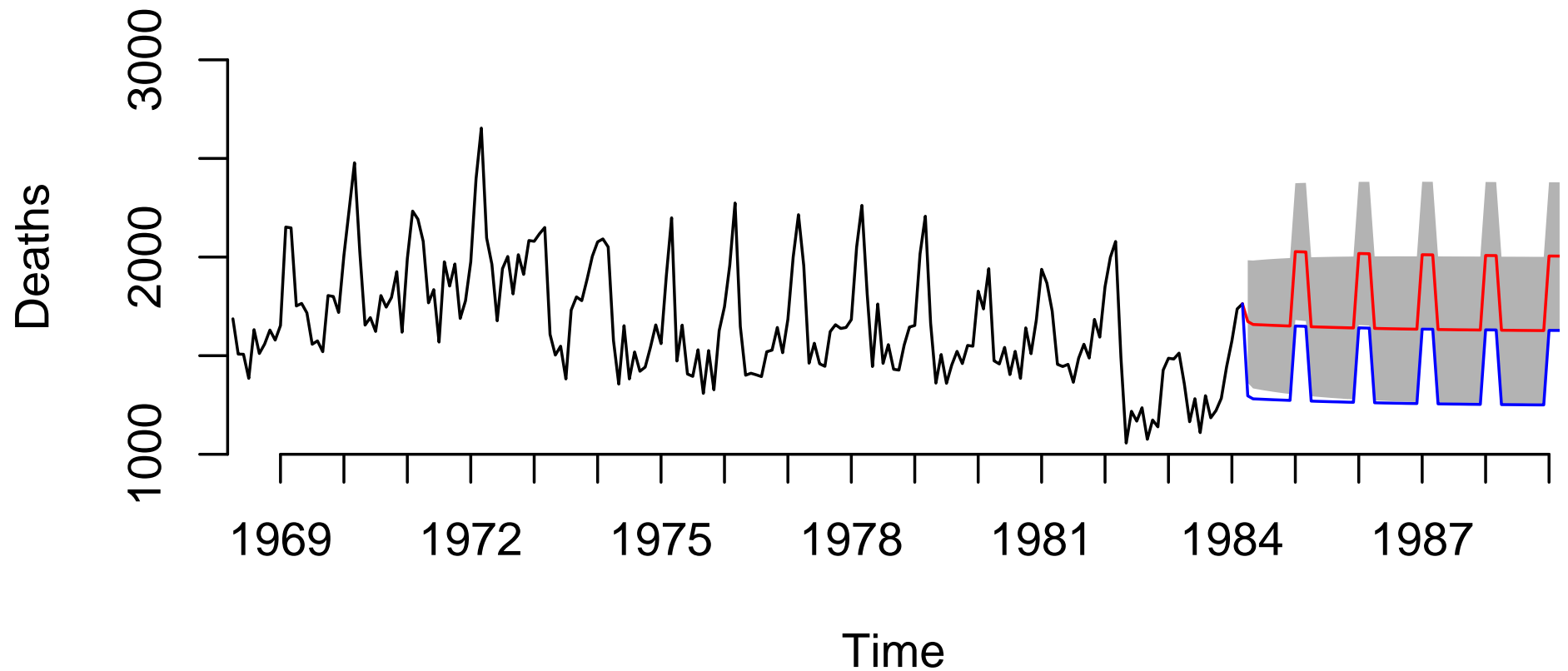


## Predicted effect of reversing seat belt law



comparing to what would happen with the law left intact

## Predicted effect of reversing seat belt law



comparing to what would happen with the law left intact

## Confidence intervals vs. Predictive Intervals

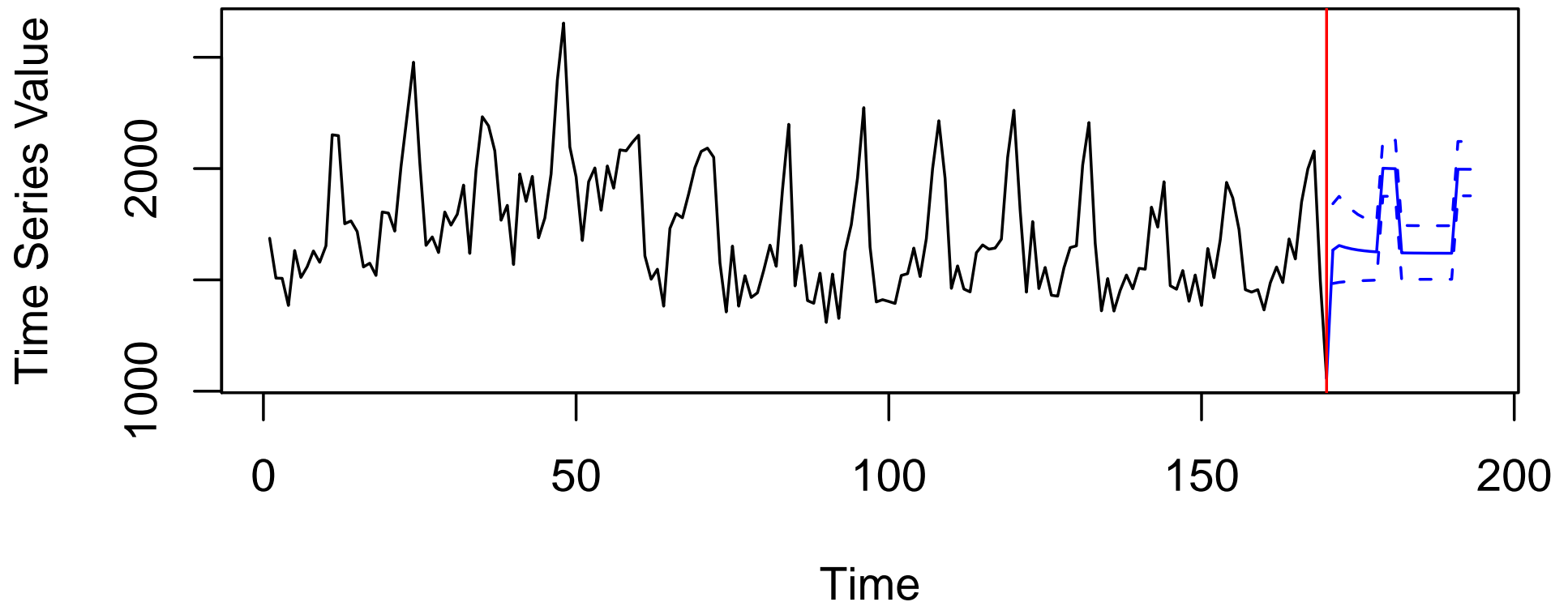
Suppose we want *confidence intervals* instead of *predictive intervals*

CIs just show the uncertainty from estimation

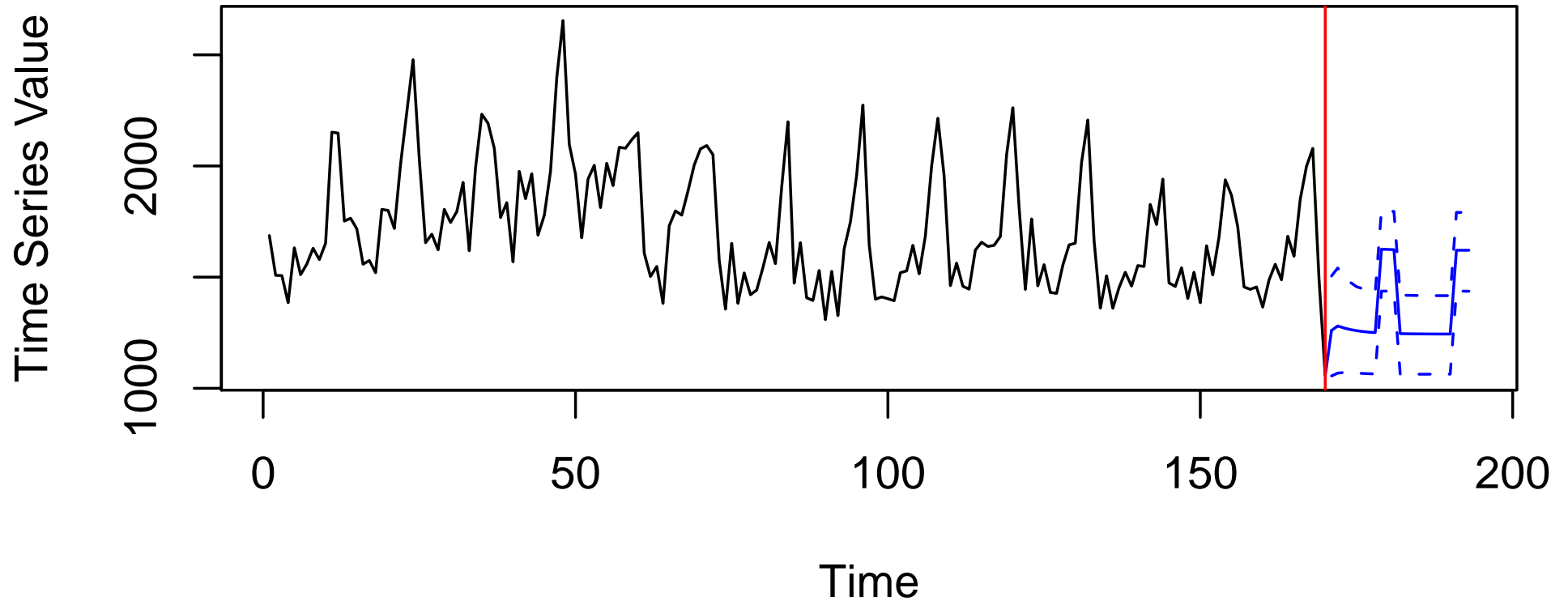
Analog to  $\text{se}(\beta)$  and significance tests

`predict()` *won't* give us CIs

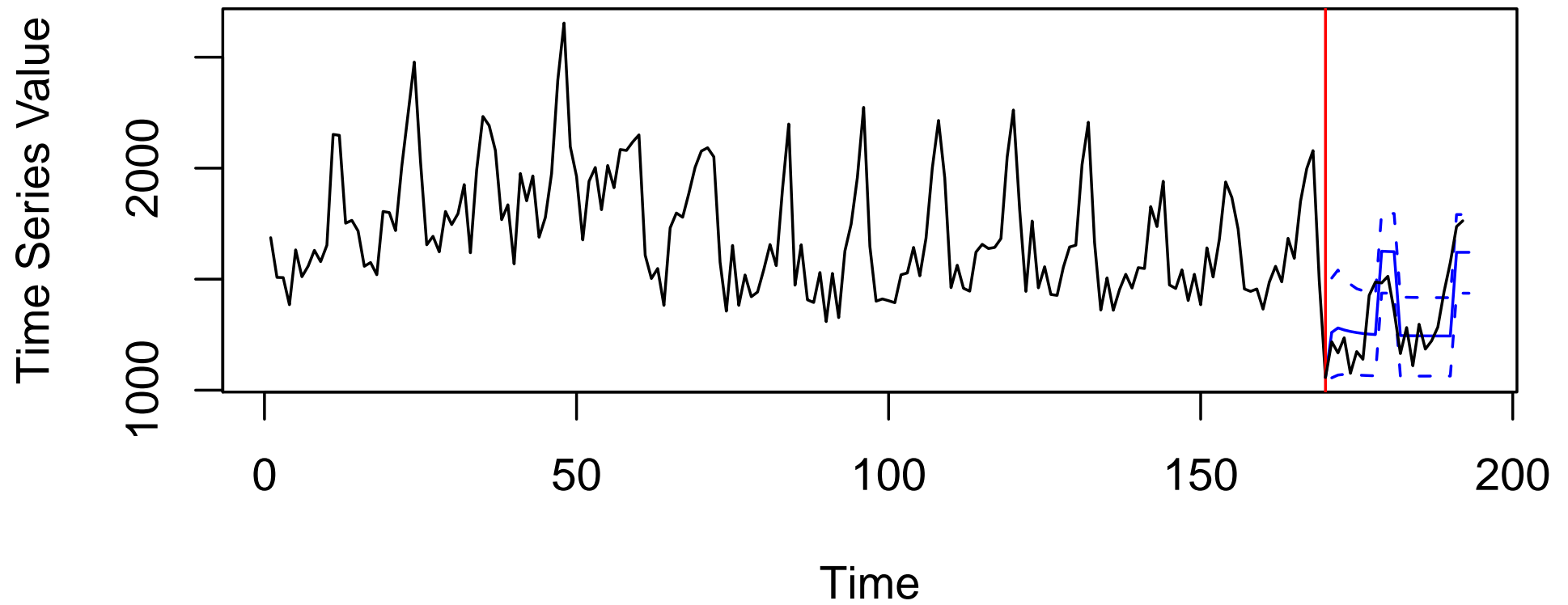
Need to use another package, `Ze1ig`. (Will review code later.)



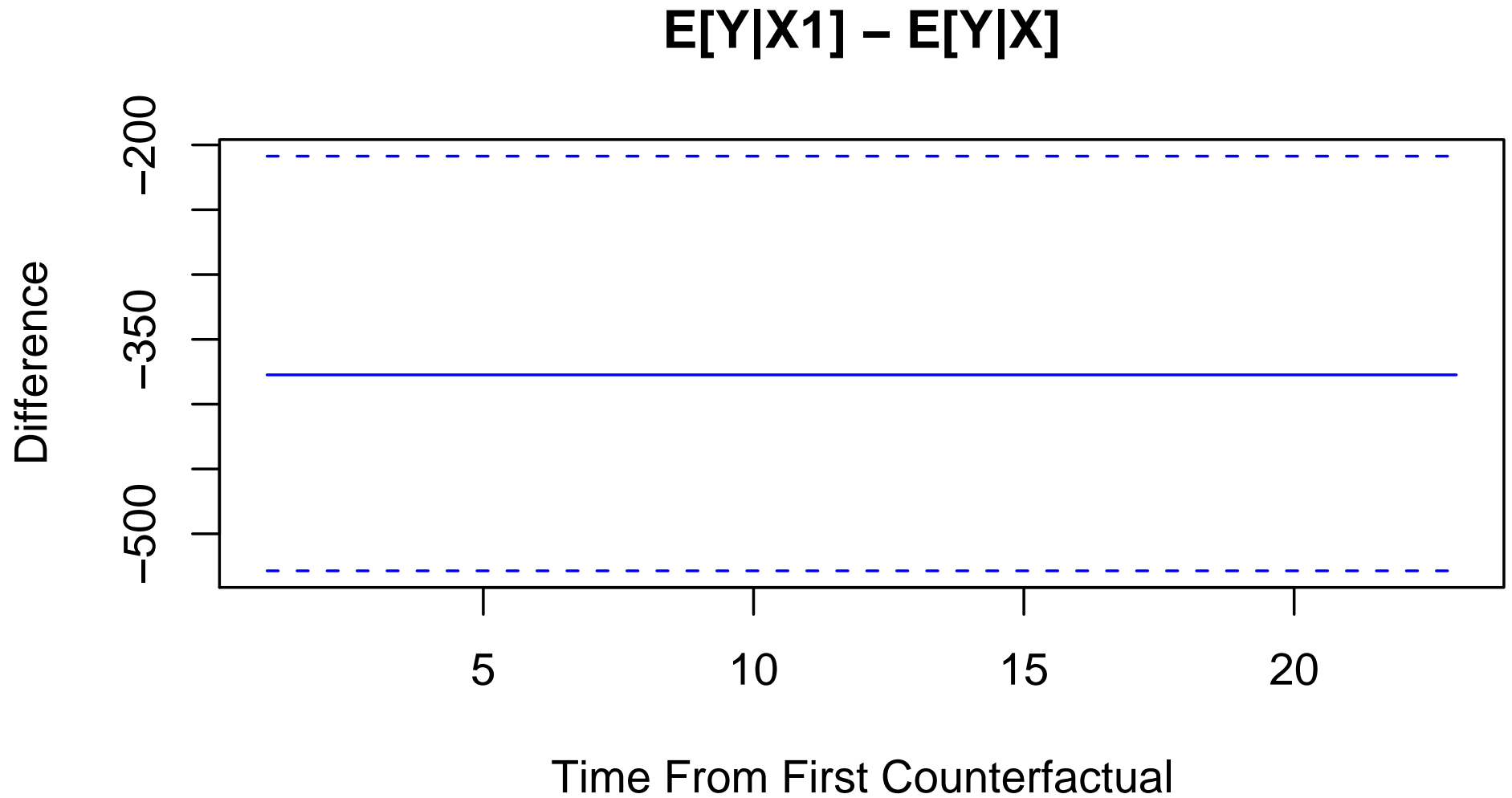
The blue lines show what the model predicts would have happened if no seat belt law had been implemented. Dashed lines are 95% *confidence* intervals around the expected number of deaths given the lack of a law



The blue lines now show what the model predicts should have happened under the (factual) scenario in which a law was implemented.



The model expectations fit closely with the actual data



The model estimates a large, statistically significant and constant reduction in deaths due to the law. Won't always be constant

## Neat. But is ARMA(p,q) appropriate for our data?

ARMA(p,q) an extremely flexible, broadly applicable model of single time series  $y_t$

But ONLY IF  $y_t$  is stationary

If data are non-stationary (have a unit root), then:

- Results may be spurious
- Long-run predictions impossible

Can assess stationarity through two methods:

1. Examine the data: time series, ACF, and PACF plots
2. Statistical tests for a unit root



## Unit root tests: Basic notion

- If  $y_t$  is stationary, large negative shifts should be followed by large positive shifts, and vice versa (mean-reversion)
- If  $y_t$  is non-stationary (has a unit root), large negative shifts should be uncorrelated with large positive shifts

Thus if we regress  $y_t - y_{t-1}$  on  $y_{t-1}$ , we should get a negative coefficient if and only if the series is stationary

To do this:

Augmented Dickey-Fuller test `adf.test()` in the `tseries` library

Phillips-Perron test: `PP.test()`

Tests differ in how they model heteroskedasticity, serial correlation, and the number of lags

## Unit root tests: Limitations

Form of unit root test: rejecting the null of a unit root.

Will tend to fail to reject for many non-unit roots with high persistence

Very hard to distinguish near-unit roots from unit roots with test statistics

Famously low power tests

## Unit root tests: Limitations

Analogy: Using polling data to predict a very close election

Null Hypothesis: Left Party will get 50.01% of the vote

Alternative Hypothesis: Left will get  $< 50\%$  of the vote

We're okay with a 3% CI if we're interested in alternatives like 45% of the vote

But suppose we need to compare the Null to 49.99%

To confidently reject the Null in favor of a very close alternative like this, we'd need a CI of about 0.005% or less

## Unit root tests: Limitations

In comparative politics, we usual ask whether  $\phi = 1$  or, say,  $\phi = 0.99$

Small numerical difference makes a huge difference for modeling

And unit root tests are weak, and poorly discriminate across these cases

Simply not much use to us

## Unit root tests: usage

```
> # Check for a unit root  
> PP.test(death)
```

### Phillips-Perron Unit Root Test

```
data:  death  
Dickey-Fuller = -6.435, Truncation lag parameter = 4, p-value = 0.01  
  
> adf.test(death)
```

### Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test

```
data:  death  
Dickey-Fuller = -6.537, Lag order = 5, p-value = 0.01  
alternative hypothesis: stationary
```

## Linear regression with $Y_{t-1}$

A popular model in comparative politics is:

$$y_t = y_{t-1}\phi_1 + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

estimated by least squares, rather than maximum likelihood

That is, treat  $y_{t-1}$  as “just another covariate”, rather than a special term

Danger of this approach:  $y_{t-1}$  and  $\varepsilon_t$  are almost certainly correlated

Violates G-M condition 3: Bias in  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ , incorrect s.e.'s

## When can you use a lagged y?

My recommendation:

1. Estimate an LS model with the lagged DV
2. Check for remaining serial correlation (Breusch-Godfrey)
3. Compare your results to the corresponding AR(p) estimated by ML
4. Use LS only if it make no statistical or substantive difference

Upshot: You can use LS in cases where it works just as well as ML

If you model the right number of lags, and need no MA(q) terms, LS often not far off

Still need to interpret the  $\beta$ 's and  $\phi$ 's dynamically

## Testing for serial correlation in errors

In LS models, serial correlation makes estimates inefficient (like heteroskedasticity)



## Testing for serial correlation in errors

In LS models, serial correlation makes estimates inefficient (like heteroskedasticity)

*If* the model includes a lagged dependent variable, serial correlation  $\rightarrow$  inconsistent estimates ( $E(x\epsilon) \neq 0$ )

## Testing for serial correlation in errors

In LS models, serial correlation makes estimates inefficient (like heteroskedasticity)

*If* the model includes a lagged dependent variable, serial correlation  $\rightarrow$  inconsistent estimates ( $E(x\epsilon) \neq 0$ )

So we need to be able to test for serial correlation.

A general test that will work for single time series or panel data is based on the Lagrange Multiplier

Called Breusch-Godfrey test, or the LM test

# Lagrange Multiplier test for serial correlation

1. Run your time series regression by least squares, regressing

$$y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1t} + \dots + \beta_k x_{kt} + \phi_1 y_{t-1} + \dots + \phi_k y_{t-k} + u_t$$

# Lagrange Multiplier test for serial correlation

1. Run your time series regression by least squares, regressing

$$y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1t} + \dots + \beta_k x_{kt} + \phi_1 y_{t-1} + \dots + \phi_k y_{t-k} + u_t$$

2. Regress (using LS)  $\hat{u}_t$  on a constant,  
the explanatory variables  $x_1, \dots, x_k, y_{t-1}, \dots, y_{t-k}$ ,  
and the lagged residuals,  $\hat{u}_{t-1}, \dots, \hat{u}_{t-m}$

Be sure to choose  $m < p$ . If you choose  $m = 1$ , you have a test for 1st degree autocorrelation; if you choose  $m = 2$ , you have a test for 2nd degree autocorrelation, etc.

# Lagrange Multiplier test for serial correlation

1. Run your time series regression by least squares, regressing

$$y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1t} + \dots + \beta_k x_{kt} + \phi_1 y_{t-1} + \dots + \phi_k y_{t-k} + u_t$$

2. Regress (using LS)  $\hat{u}_t$  on a constant,  
the explanatory variables  $x_1, \dots, x_k, y_{t-1}, \dots, y_{t-k}$ ,  
and the lagged residuals,  $\hat{u}_{t-1}, \dots, \hat{u}_{t-m}$

Be sure to choose  $m < p$ . If you choose  $m = 1$ , you have a test for 1st degree autocorrelation; if you choose  $m = 2$ , you have a test for 2nd degree autocorrelation, etc.

3. Compute the test-statistic  $(T - p)R^2$ , where  $R^2$  is the coefficient of determination from the regression in step 2. This test statistic is distributed  $\chi^2$  with  $m$  degrees of freedom.

## Lagrange Multiplier test for serial correlation

1. Run your time series regression by least squares, regressing

$$y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1t} + \dots + \beta_k x_{kt} + \phi_1 y_{t-1} + \dots + \phi_k y_{t-k} + u_t$$

2. Regress (using LS)  $\hat{u}_t$  on a constant,  
the explanatory variables  $x_1, \dots, x_k, y_{t-1}, \dots, y_{t-k}$ ,  
and the lagged residuals,  $\hat{u}_{t-1}, \dots, \hat{u}_{t-m}$

Be sure to choose  $m < p$ . If you choose  $m = 1$ , you have a test for 1st degree autocorrelation; if you choose  $m = 2$ , you have a test for 2nd degree autocorrelation, etc.

3. Compute the test-statistic  $(T - p)R^2$ , where  $R^2$  is the coefficient of determination from the regression in step 2. This test statistic is distributed  $\chi^2$  with  $m$  degrees of freedom.
4. Rejecting the null for this test statistic is equivalent to rejecting no autocorrelation.

## Regression with lagged DV for Accidents

Call:

```
lm(formula = death ~ lagdeath + q4 + law)
```

Coefficients:

|             | Estimate  | Std. Error | t value | Pr(> t ) |     |
|-------------|-----------|------------|---------|----------|-----|
| (Intercept) | 848.4006  | 79.4700    | 10.68   | < 2e-16  | *** |
| lagdeath    | 0.4605    | 0.0469     | 9.82    | < 2e-16  | *** |
| q4          | 311.5325  | 27.8085    | 11.20   | < 2e-16  | *** |
| law         | -211.2391 | 39.8187    | -5.31   | 3.2e-07  | *** |

Multiple R-squared: 0.714,            Adjusted R-squared: 0.709

## Tests for serial correlation

```
> bgtest(lm.res1)
```

Breusch-Godfrey test for serial correlation of order 1

data: lm.res1

LM test = 0.016, df = 1, p-value = 0.8995

```
> bgtest(lm.res1,2)
```

Breusch-Godfrey test for serial correlation of order 2

data: lm.res1

LM test = 10.92, df = 2, p-value = 0.004259



# What we're doing today

Next steps:

- Review ARMA(p,q) prediction and confidence intervals
- Discuss distributed lag models
- Learn some (weak) techniques for identifying non-stationary time series
- Analyze non-stationary series using differences
- Analyze non-stationary series using cointegration

## Differences & Integrated time series

Define  $\Delta^d y_t$  as the  $d$ th difference of  $y_t$

For the first difference ( $d = 1$ ), we write

$$\Delta y_t = y_t - y_{t-1}$$

For the second difference ( $d = 2$ ), we write

$$\Delta^2 y_t = (y_t - y_{t-1}) - (y_{t-1} - y_{t-2})$$

or the difference of two first differences

or the difference in the difference

## Differences & Integrated time series

For the third difference ( $d = 3$ ), we write

$$\Delta^3 y_t = ((y_t - y_{t-1}) - (y_{t-1} - y_{t-2})) - (y_{t-1} - y_{t-2}) - (y_{t-2} - y_{t-3})$$

or the difference of two second differences

or the difference in the difference in the difference

This gets perplexing fast.

Fortunately, we will rarely need  $d > 1$ , and almost never  $d > 2$ .

## Differences & Integrated time series

What happens if we difference a stationary AR(1) process ( $|\phi_1| < 1$ )?

$$y_t = y_{t-1}\phi_1 + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

## Differences & Integrated time series

What happens if we difference a stationary AR(1) process ( $|\phi_1| < 1$ )?

$$y_t = y_{t-1}\phi_1 + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$y_t - y_{t-1} = y_{t-1}\phi_1 - y_{t-1} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

## Differences & Integrated time series

What happens if we difference a stationary AR(1) process ( $|\phi_1| < 1$ )?

$$y_t = y_{t-1}\phi_1 + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$y_t - y_{t-1} = y_{t-1}\phi_1 - y_{t-1} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\Delta y_t = (1 - \phi)y_{t-1} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

We still have an AR(1) process, *and* we've thrown away some useful information (the levels in  $y_t$ ) that our covariates  $x_t$  might explain

# Differences & Integrated time series

What happens if we difference a random walk?

$$y_t = y_{t-1} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

## Differences & Integrated time series

What happens if we difference a random walk?

$$y_t = y_{t-1} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$y_t - y_{t-1} = y_{t-1} - y_{t-1} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$



## Differences & Integrated time series

What happens if we difference a random walk?

$$y_t = y_{t-1} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$y_t - y_{t-1} = y_{t-1} - y_{t-1} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\Delta y_t = \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

The result is AR(0), and stationary—  
we could analyze it using ARMA(0,0), which is just LS regression!

When a single differencing removes non-stationarity from a time series  $y_t$ ,  
we say  $y_t$  is *integrated* of order 1, or I(1).

A time series that does not need to be differenced to be stationary is I(0).

This differencing trick comes at a price:  
we can only explain changes in  $y_t$ , *not* levels,  
and hence not the long-run relationship between  $y_t$  and  $\mathbf{x}_t$ .

## Differences & Integrated time series

What happens if we difference an AR(2) unit root process?

$$y_t = 1.5y_{t-1} - 0.5y_{t-2} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

## Differences & Integrated time series

What happens if we difference an AR(2) unit root process?

$$y_t = 1.5y_{t-1} - 0.5y_{t-2} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$y_t - y_{t-1} = 1.5y_{t-1} - y_{t-1} - 0.5y_{t-2} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

## Differences & Integrated time series

What happens if we difference an AR(2) unit root process?

$$y_t = 1.5y_{t-1} - 0.5y_{t-2} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$y_t - y_{t-1} = 1.5y_{t-1} - y_{t-1} - 0.5y_{t-2} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\Delta y_t = 0.5y_{t-1} - 0.5y_{t-2} + \mathbf{x}_t\boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t$$

We get a stationary AR(2) process. We could analyze this new process with ARMA(2,0).

We say that the original process is ARI(2,1),  
or an integrated autoregressive process of order 2, integrated of order 1.

## Differences & Integrated time series

Recall our GDP & Democracy example

$$\text{GDP}_t = \phi_1 \text{GDP}_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\text{GDP}_t = 0.9 \times \text{GDP}_{t-1} + 10 + 2 \times \text{Democracy}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

At year  $t$ ,  $\text{GDP}_t = 100$  and the country is a non-democracy  $\text{Democracy}_t = 0$ , and we are curious what would happen to GDP if in  $t + 1$  to  $t + k$ , the country becomes a democracy.

## Differences & Integrated time series

At year  $t$ ,  $GDP_t = 100$  and the country is a non-democracy  $Democracy_t = 0$ , and we are curious what would happen to GDP if in  $t + 1$  to  $t + k$ , the country becomes a democracy.

$$GDP_t = \phi_1 GDP_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 Democracy_t + \varepsilon_t$$

## Differences & Integrated time series

At year  $t$ ,  $GDP_t = 100$  and the country is a non-democracy  $Democracy_t = 0$ , and we are curious what would happen to GDP if in  $t + 1$  to  $t + k$ , the country becomes a democracy.

$$GDP_t = \phi_1 GDP_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 Democracy_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$GDP_t - GDP_{t-1} = \phi_1 GDP_{t-1} - GDP_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 Democracy_t + \varepsilon_t$$

## Differences & Integrated time series

At year  $t$ ,  $GDP_t = 100$  and the country is a non-democracy  $Democracy_t = 0$ , and we are curious what would happen to GDP if in  $t + 1$  to  $t + k$ , the country becomes a democracy.

$$GDP_t = \phi_1 GDP_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 Democracy_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$GDP_t - GDP_{t-1} = \phi_1 GDP_{t-1} - GDP_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 Democracy_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\Delta GDP_t = (1 - \phi_1) GDP_{t-1} - GDP_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 Democracy_t + \varepsilon_t$$



## Differences & Integrated time series

At year  $t$ ,  $GDP_t = 100$  and the country is a non-democracy  $Democracy_t = 0$ , and we are curious what would happen to GDP if in  $t + 1$  to  $t + k$ , the country becomes a democracy.

$$GDP_t = \phi_1 GDP_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 Democracy_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$GDP_t - GDP_{t-1} = \phi_1 GDP_{t-1} - GDP_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 Democracy_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\Delta GDP_t = (1 - \phi_1) GDP_{t-1} - GDP_{t-1} + \beta_0 + \beta_1 Democracy_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\Delta GDP_t = -0.1 \times GDP_{t-1} + 10 + 2 \times Democracy_t + \varepsilon_t$$

Works just as before—but we have to supply external information on the *levels*

The model doesn't know them

## ARIMA(p,d,q) models

An ARIMA(p,d,q) regression model has the following form:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta^d y_t &= \Delta^d y_{t-1} \phi_1 + \Delta^d y_{t-2} \phi_2 + \dots + \Delta^d y_{t-p} \phi_p \\ &\quad + \varepsilon_{t-1} \rho_1 + \varepsilon_{t-2} \rho_2 + \dots + \varepsilon_{t-q} \rho_q \\ &\quad + \mathbf{x}_t \boldsymbol{\beta} + \varepsilon_t\end{aligned}$$

This just an ARMA(p,q) model applied to differenced  $y_t$

The same MLE that gave us ARMA estimates still estimates  $\hat{\phi}$ ,  $\hat{\rho}$ , and  $\hat{\beta}$

We just need to choose  $d$  based on theory, ACFs and PACFs, and unit root tests (ugh)

## ARIMA( $p,d,q$ ) models

Conditional forecasting and in-sample counterfactuals work just as before

Same code from last time will work; just change the  $d$  term of the ARIMA order to 1

## Example: Presidential Approval

We have data on the percent ( $\times 100$ ) of Americans supporting President Bush, averaged by month, over 2/2001–6/2006.

Our covariates include:

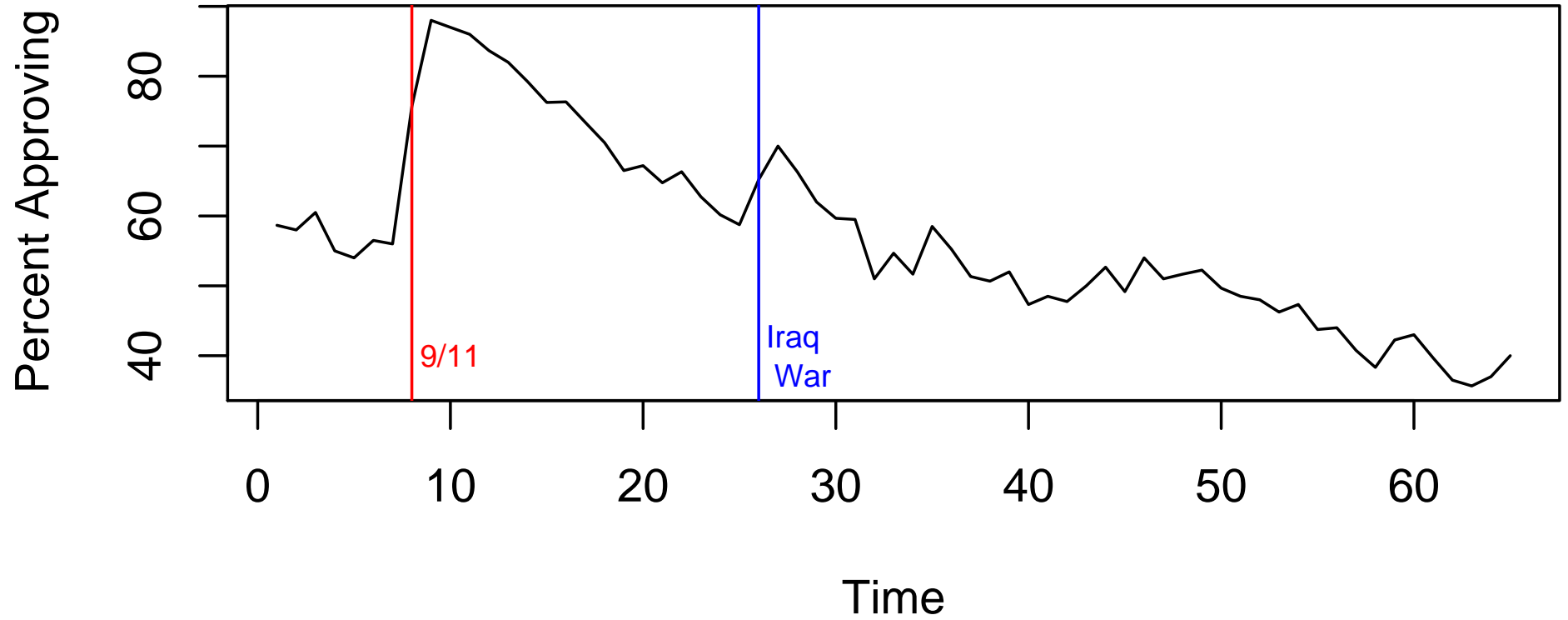
The average price of oil per month, in \$/barrel

Dummies for September and October of 2001

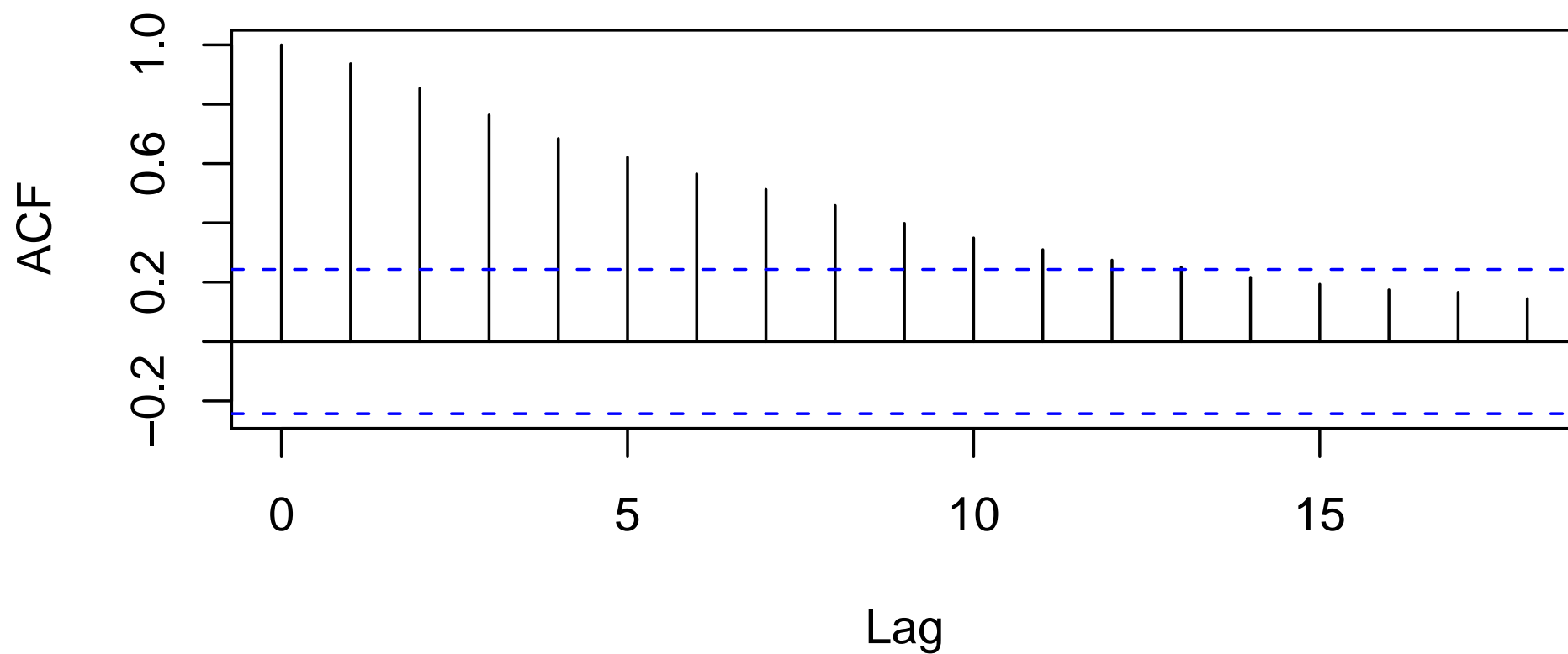
Dummies for first three months of the Iraq War

Let's look at our two continuous time series

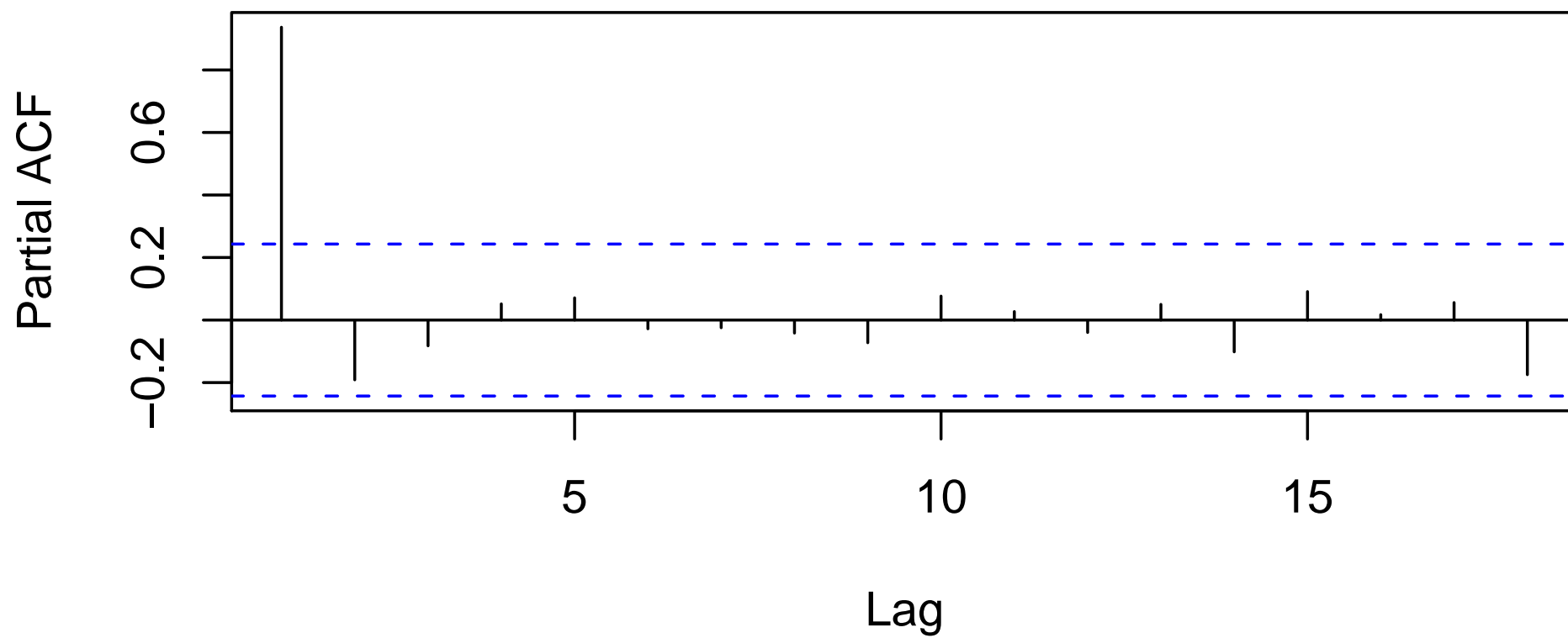
# US Presidential Approval



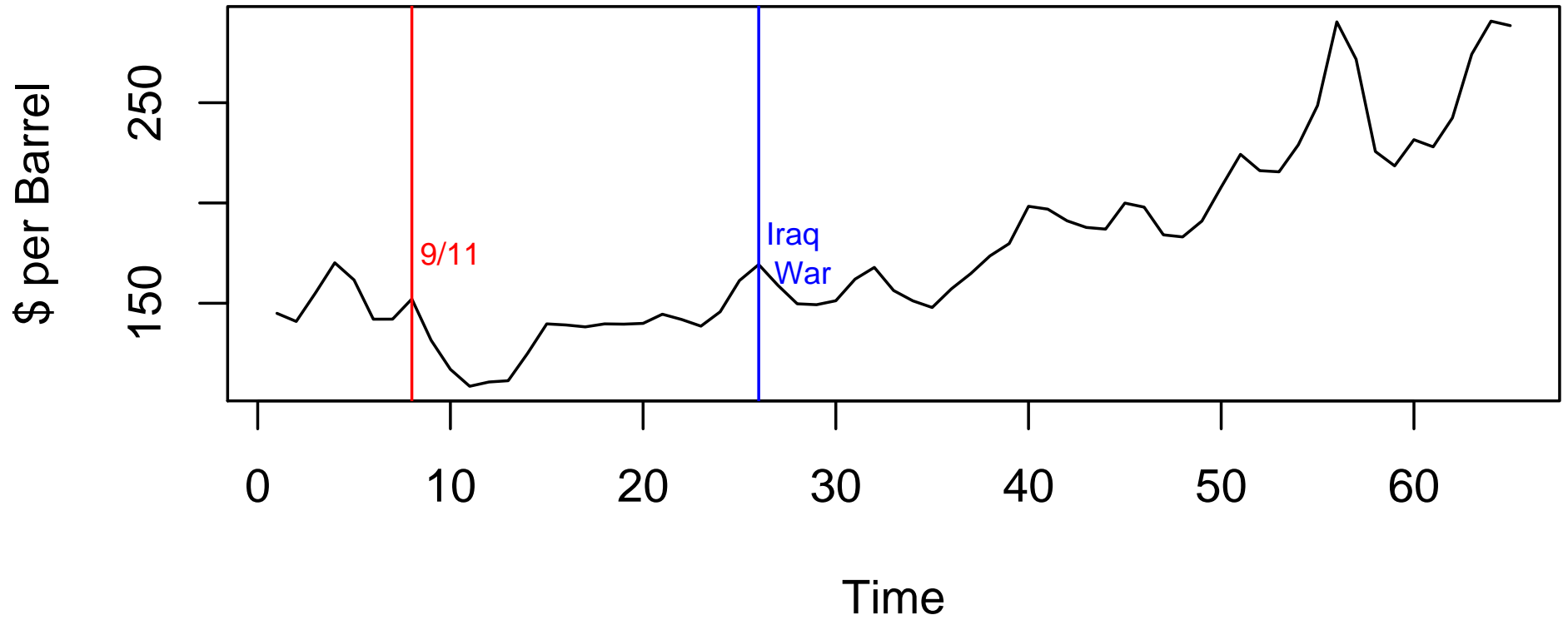
## Series approve



## Series approve

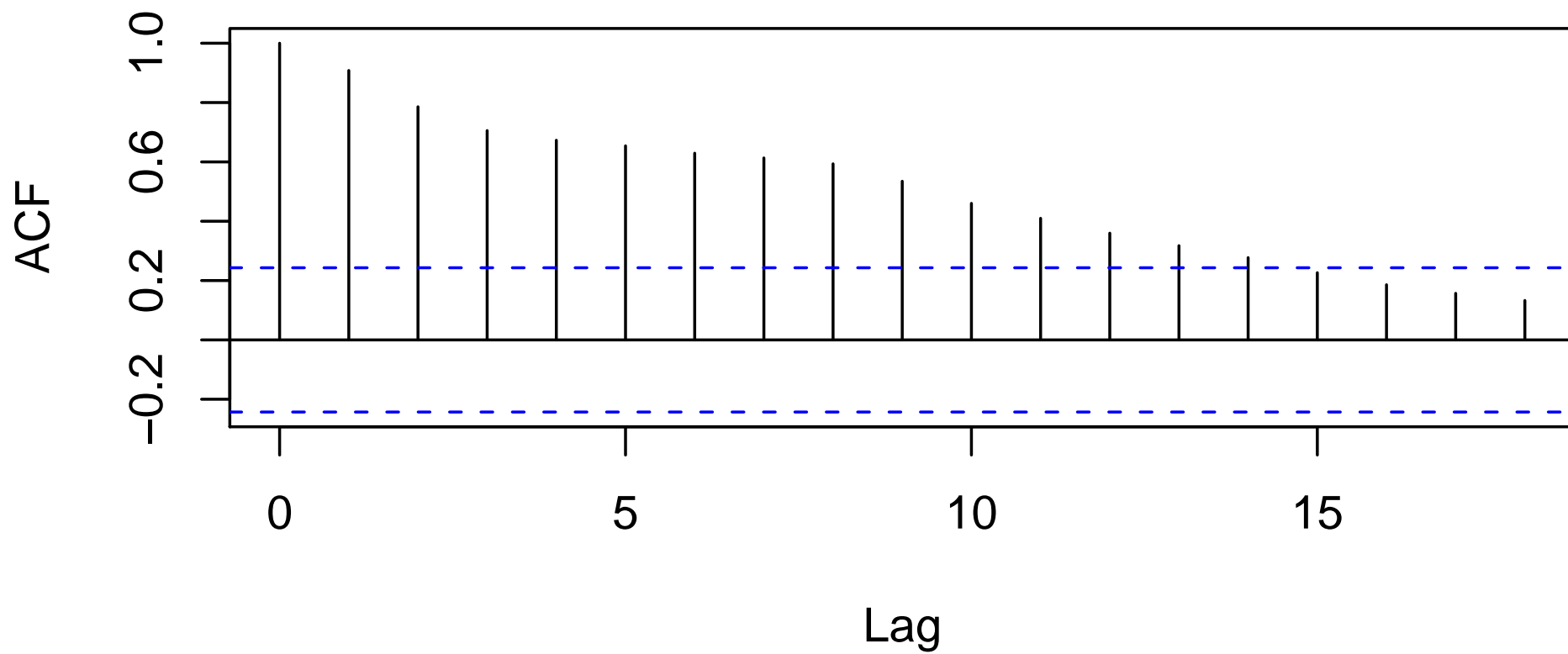


# Average Price of Oil

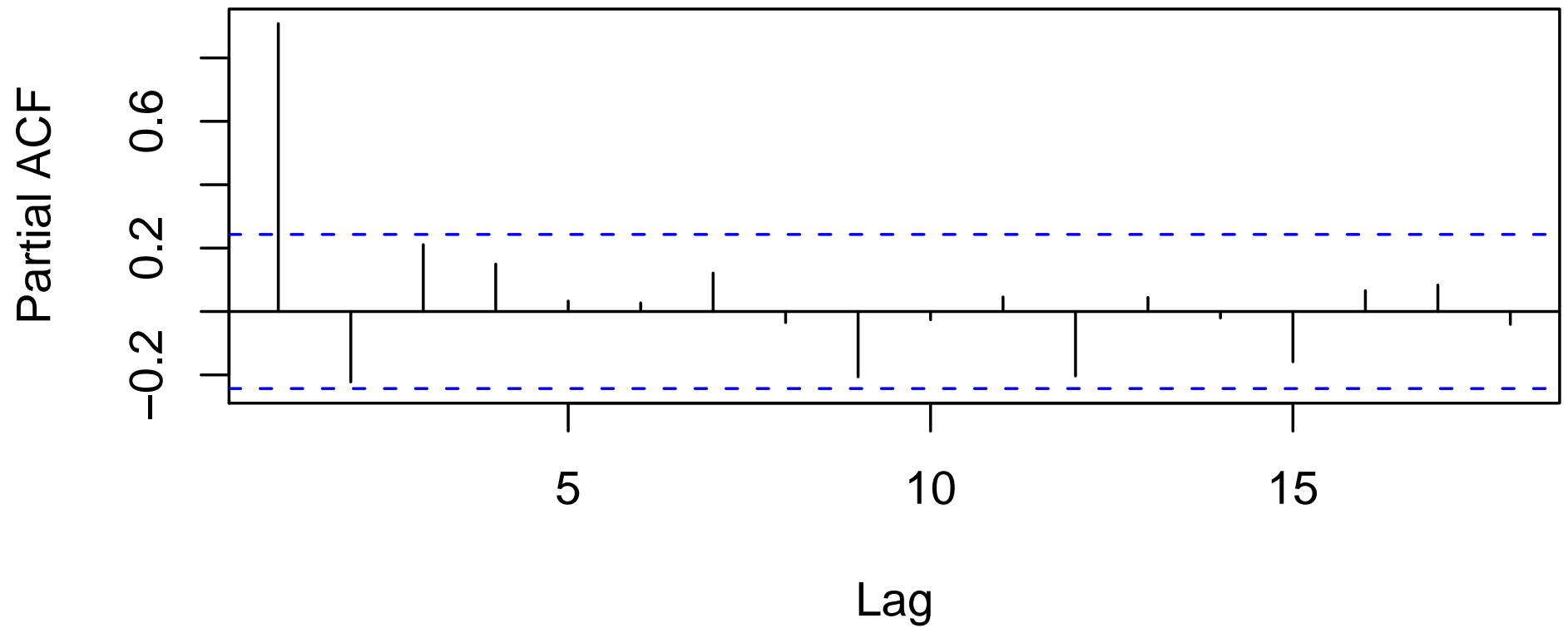




## Series avg.price

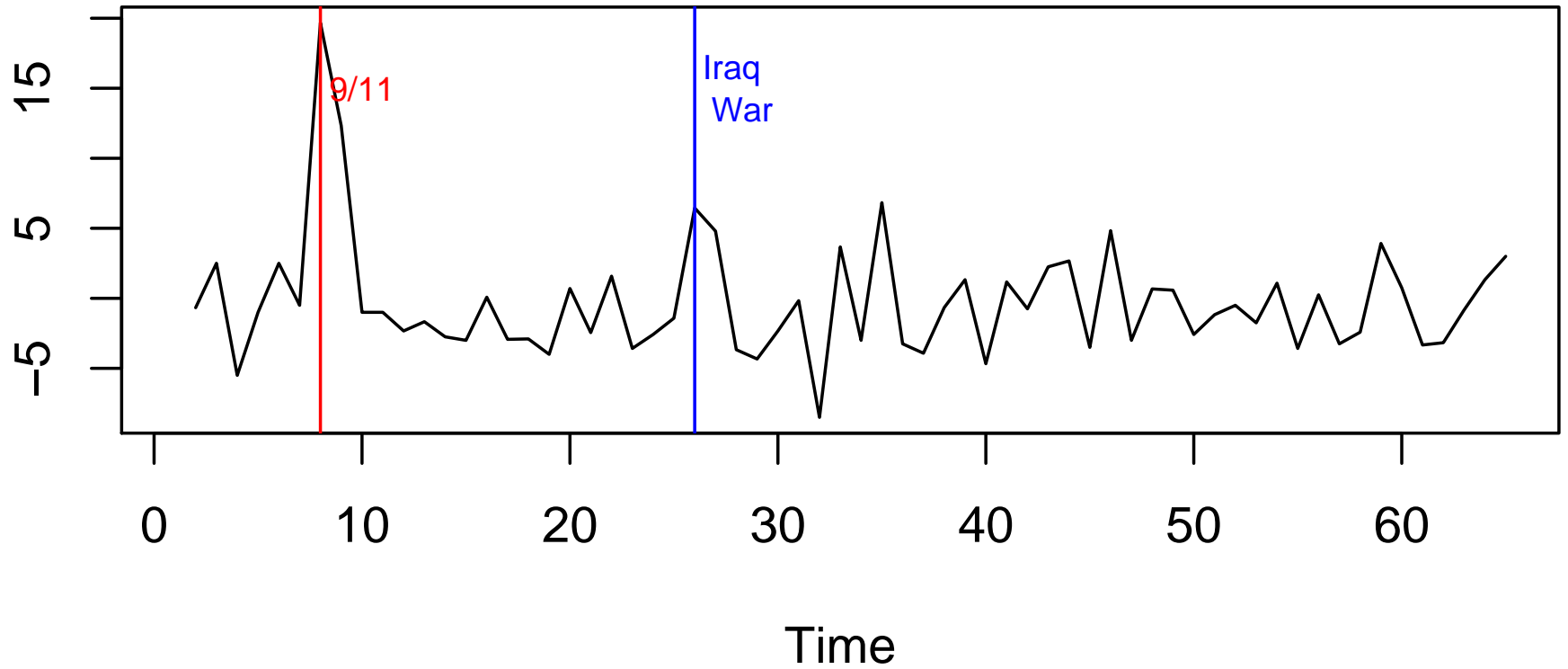


## Series avg.price

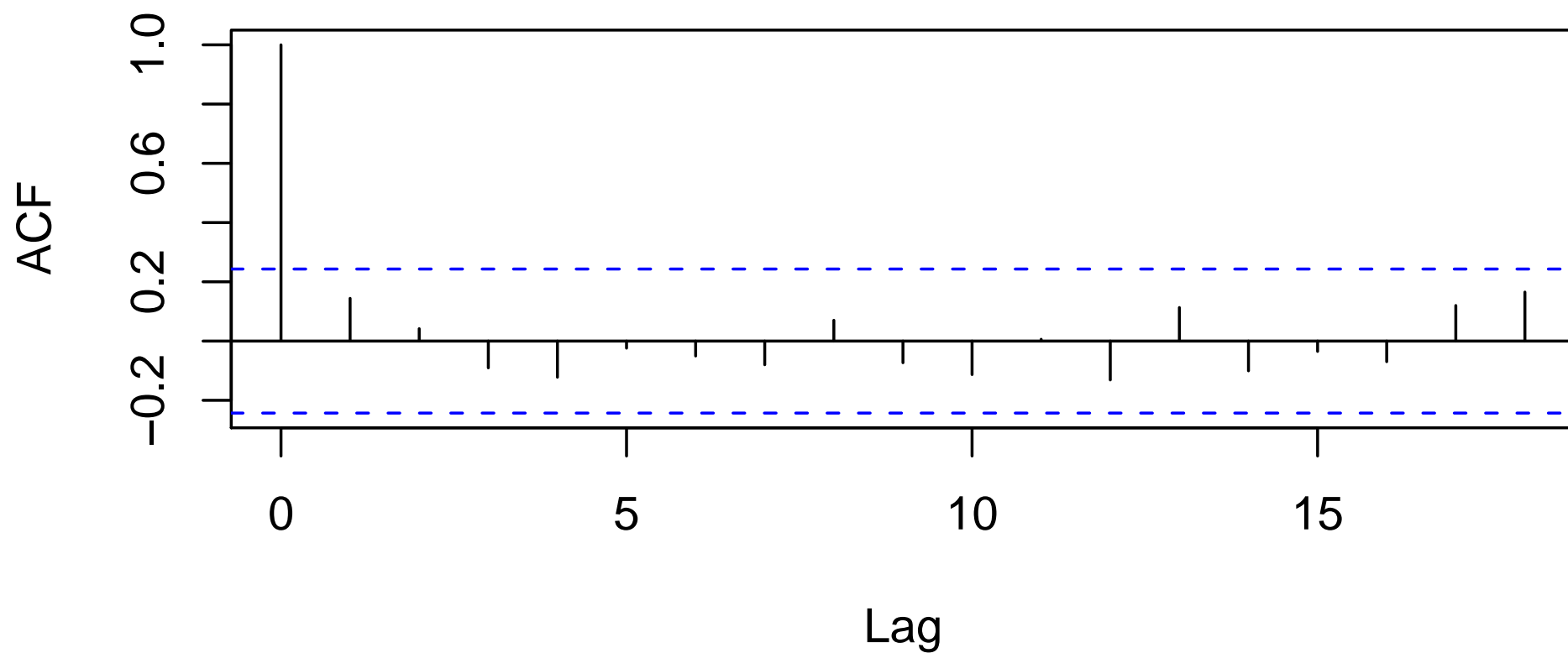


# US Presidential Approval

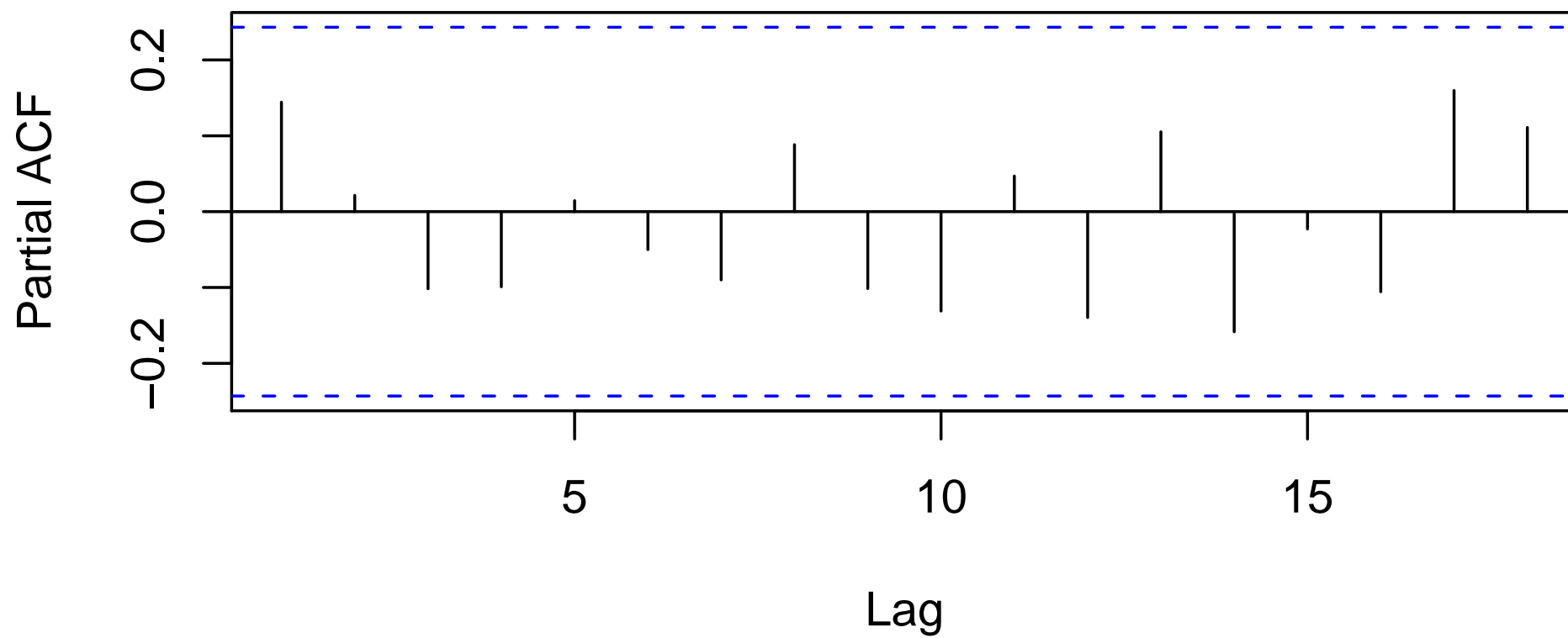
Change in Percent Approving



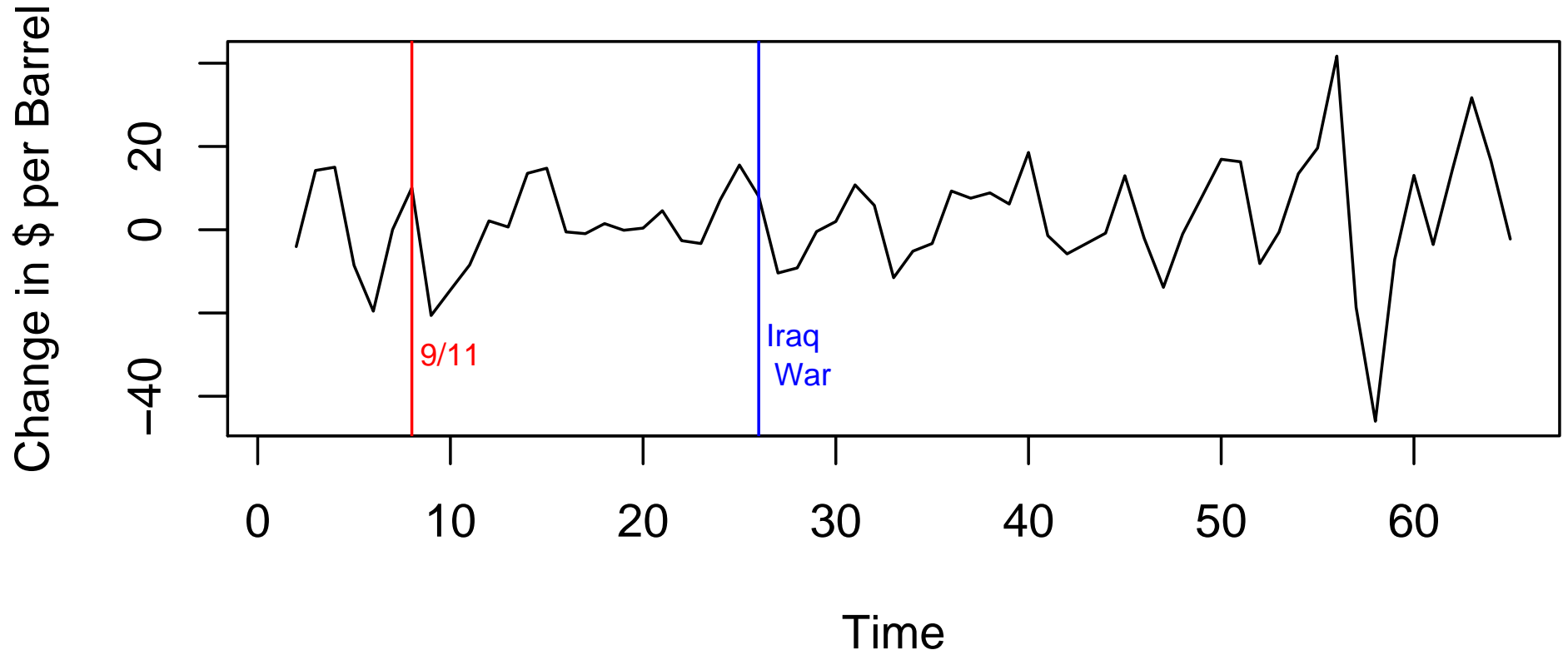
# Series approveDiff



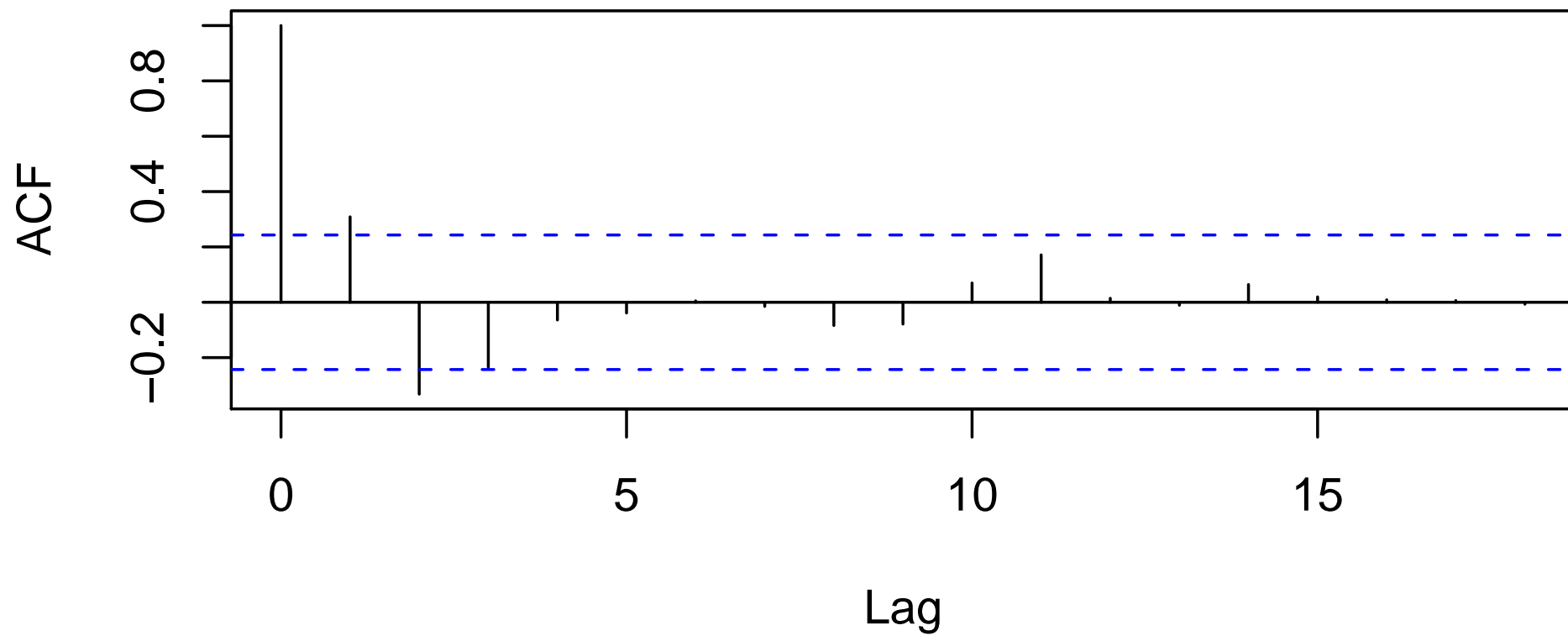
# Series approveDiff



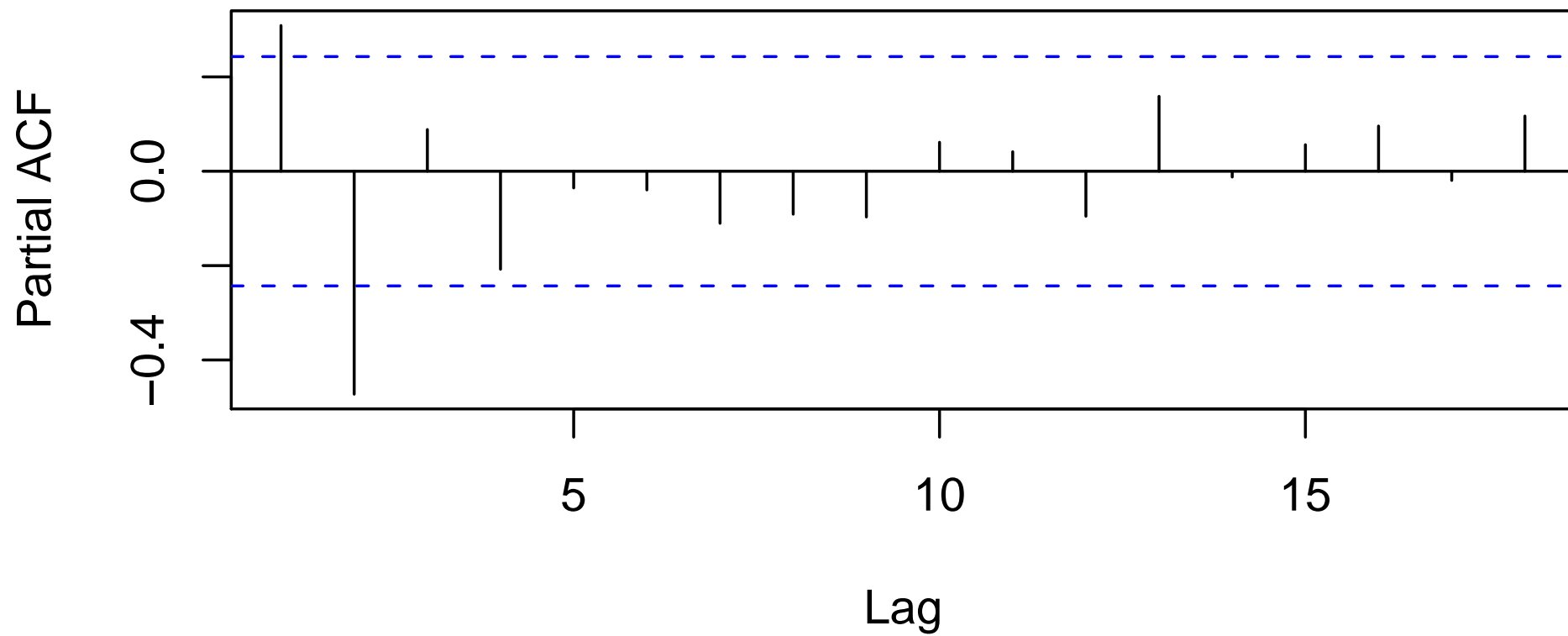
# Average Price of Oil



# Series avg.priceDiff



## Series avg.priceDiff





## Example: Presidential Approval

Many suspect `approve` and `avg.price` are non-stationary processes

Theoretically, what does this mean? Could an approval rate drift anywhere?

Note a better dependent variable would be the logit transformation of `approve`,  $\ln(\text{approve}/(1 - \text{approve}))$ , which is unbounded and probably closer to the latent concept of support

And extending `approve` out to  $T = \infty$  would likely stretch the concept too far for a democracy with regular, anticipated elections

We'll ignore this to focus on the TS issues

## Example: Presidential Approval

*To a first approximation*, we suspect approve and avg.price may be non-stationary processes

We know that regressing one  $I(1)$  process on another risks spurious correlation

How can we investigate the relationship between these variables?

Strategy 1: ARIMA(0,1,0), first differencing

## Example: Presidential Approval

We load the data, plot it, with ACFs and PACFs

Then perform unit root tests

```
> PP.test(approve)
```

Phillips-Perron Unit Root Test

```
data:  approve
```

```
Dickey-Fuller = -2.839, Truncation lag parameter = 3, p-value = 0.2350
```

```
> adf.test(approve)
```

Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test

```
data:  approve
```

```
Dickey-Fuller = -3.957, Lag order = 3, p-value = 0.01721
```

```
alternative hypothesis: stationary
```

## Example: Presidential Approval

```
> PP.test(avg.price)
```

Phillips-Perron Unit Root Test

```
data: avg.price
```

```
Dickey-Fuller = -2.332, Truncation lag parameter = 3, p-value = 0.4405
```

```
> adf.test(avg.price)
```

Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test

```
data: avg.price
```

```
Dickey-Fuller = -3.011, Lag order = 3, p-value = 0.1649
```

```
alternative hypothesis: stationary
```

## Example: Presidential Approval

We create differenced versions of the time series, and repeat

```
> adf.test(na.omit(approveDiff))
```

Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test

```
data: na.omit(approveDiff)
Dickey-Fuller = -4.346, Lag order = 3, p-value = 0.01
alternative hypothesis: stationary
```

```
> adf.test(na.omit(avg.priceDiff))
```

Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test

```
data: na.omit(avg.priceDiff)
Dickey-Fuller = -5.336, Lag order = 3, p-value = 0.01
alternative hypothesis: stationary
```

## Example: Presidential Approval

We estimate an ARIMA(0,1,0), which fit a little better than ARIMA(2,1,2) on the AIC criterion

Call:

```
arima(x = approve, order = c(0, 1, 0),  
      xreg = xcovariates, include.mean = TRUE)
```

Coefficients:

|      | sept.oct.2001 | iraq.war | avg.price |
|------|---------------|----------|-----------|
|      | 11.207        | 5.690    | -0.071    |
| s.e. | 2.519         | 2.489    | 0.034     |

sigma<sup>2</sup> estimated as 12.4: log likelihood = -171.2, aic = 350.5

## Example: Presidential Approval

To interpret the model, we focus on historical counterfactuals

What would Bush's approval have looked like if 9/11 hadn't happened?

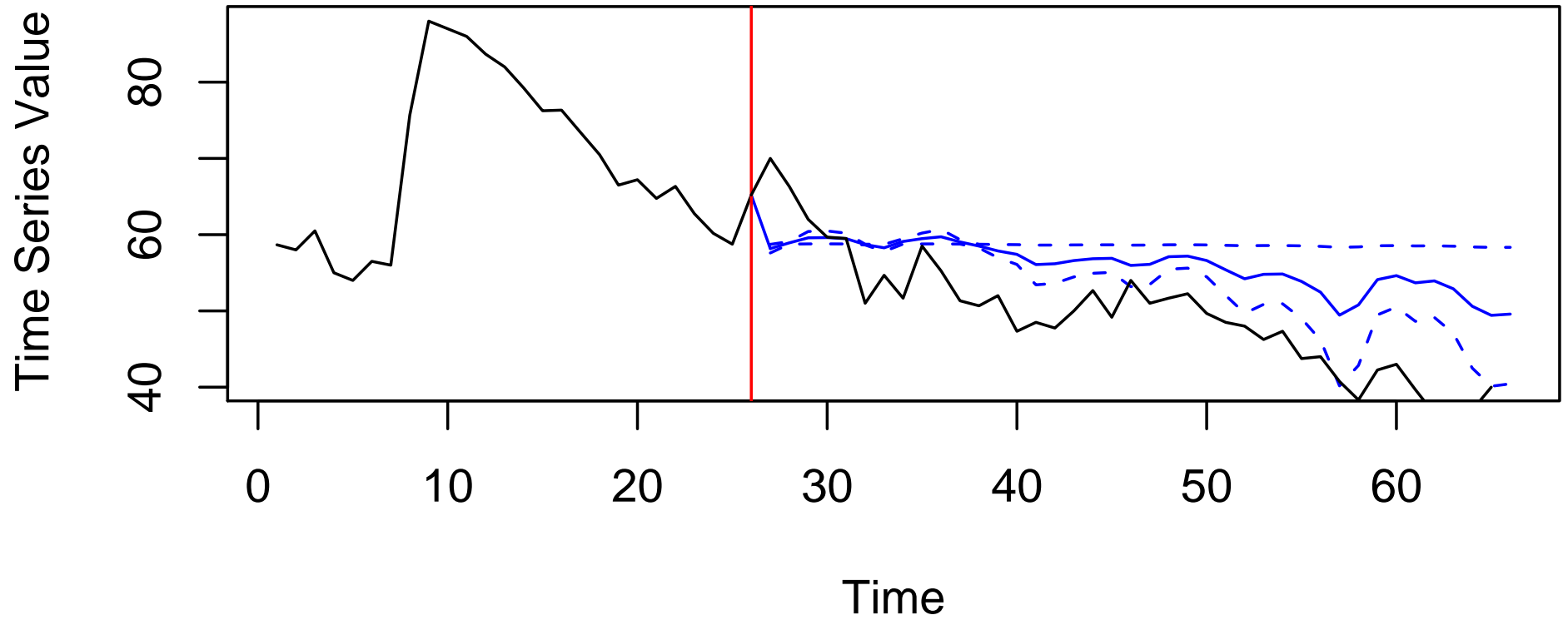
What if Bush had not invaded Iraq?

What if the price of oil had remained at pre-war levels?

Naturally, we only trust our results so far as we trust the model

(which is not very much—we've left out a lot, like unemployment, inflation, boundedness of approve, . . . )

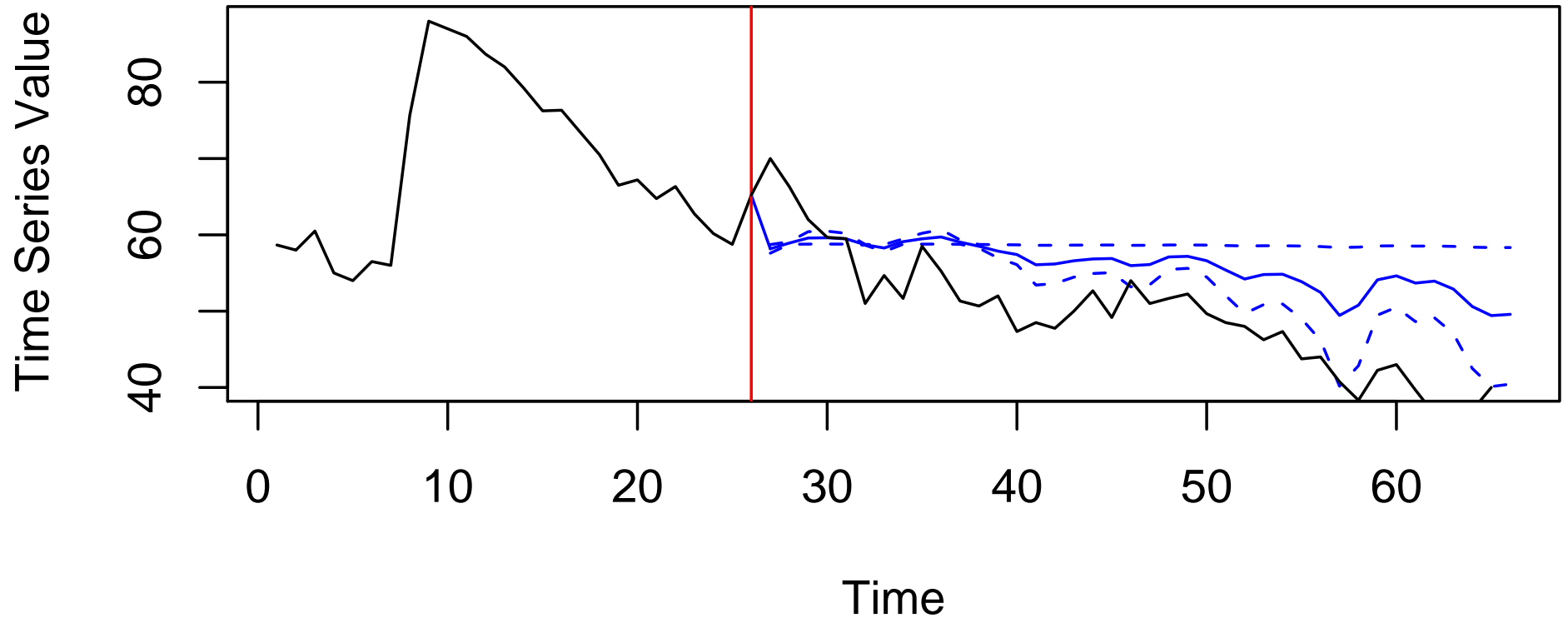
We simulate counterfactual approval using Zelig's implementation of ARIMA



In blue: Predicted Bush approval without Iraq

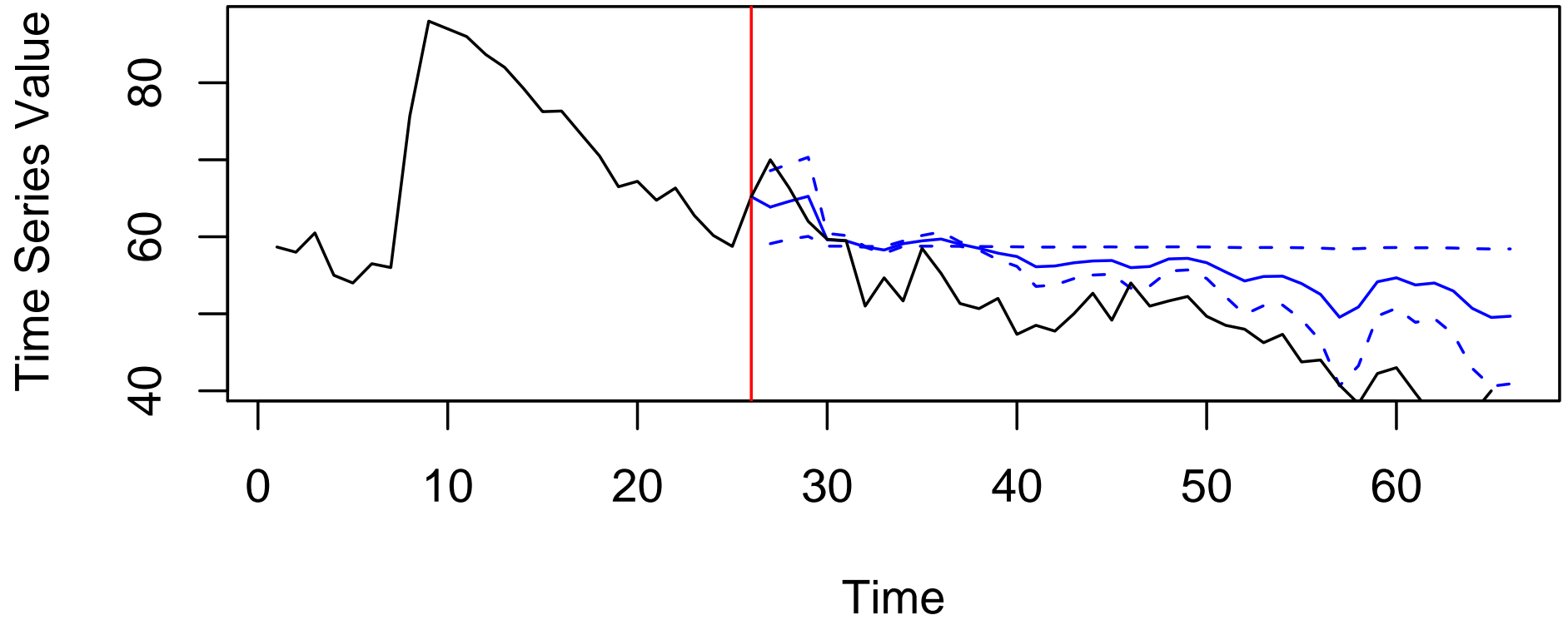
In black: Actual approval





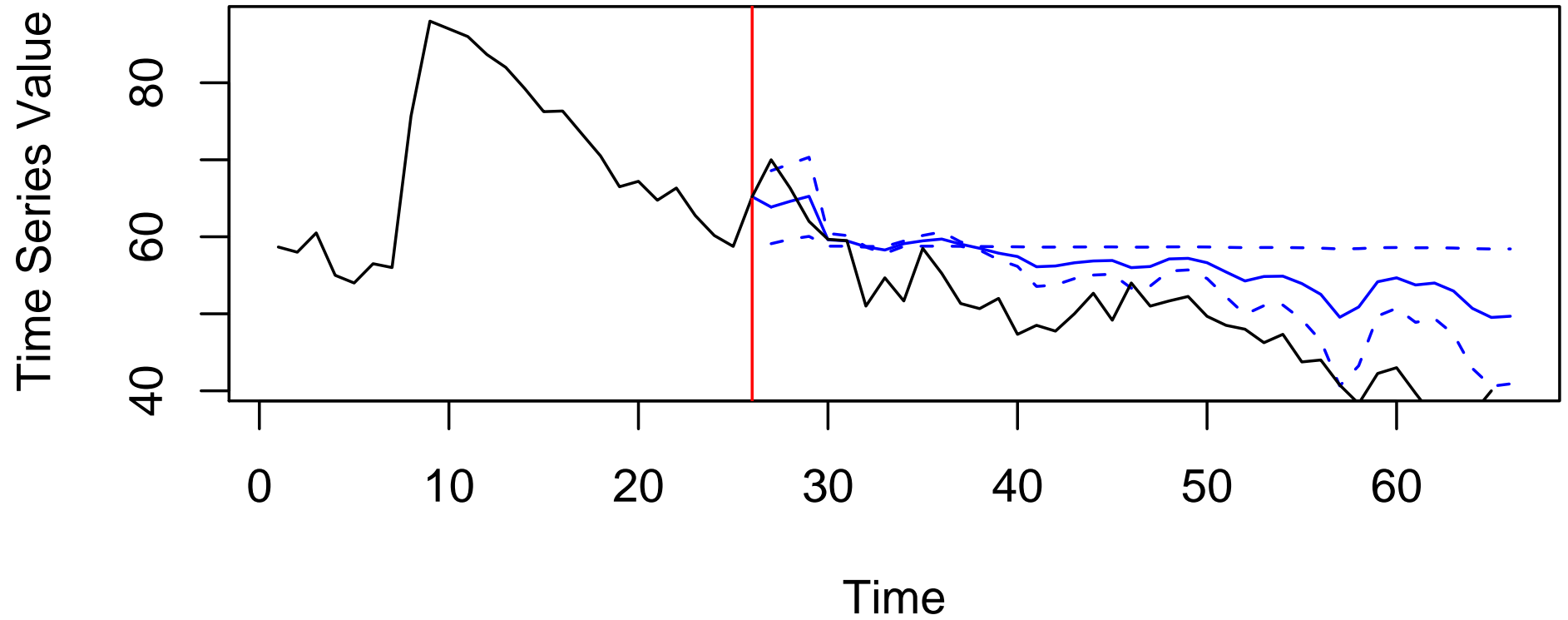
At first, starting the war in Iraq appears to help Bush's popularity

Then, it hurts—a lot. Sensible result. So are we done?

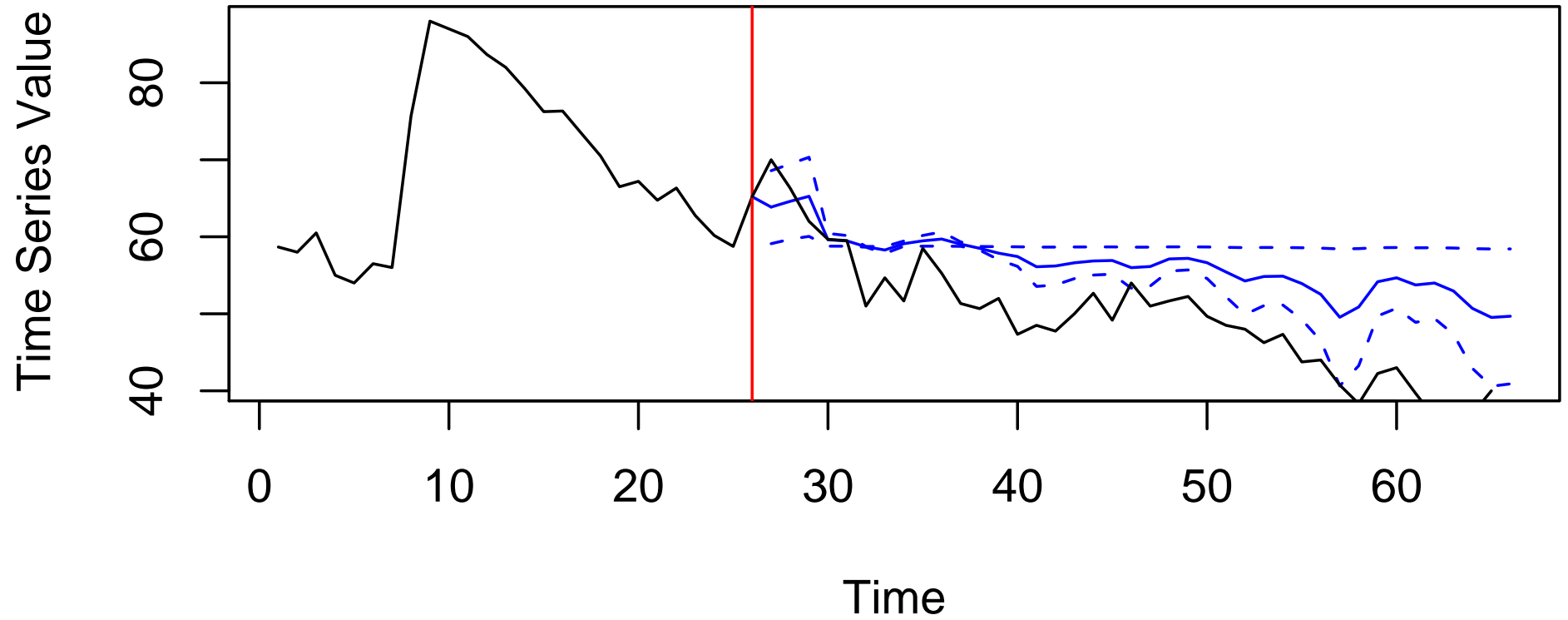


In blue: Predicted Bush approval with Iraq war

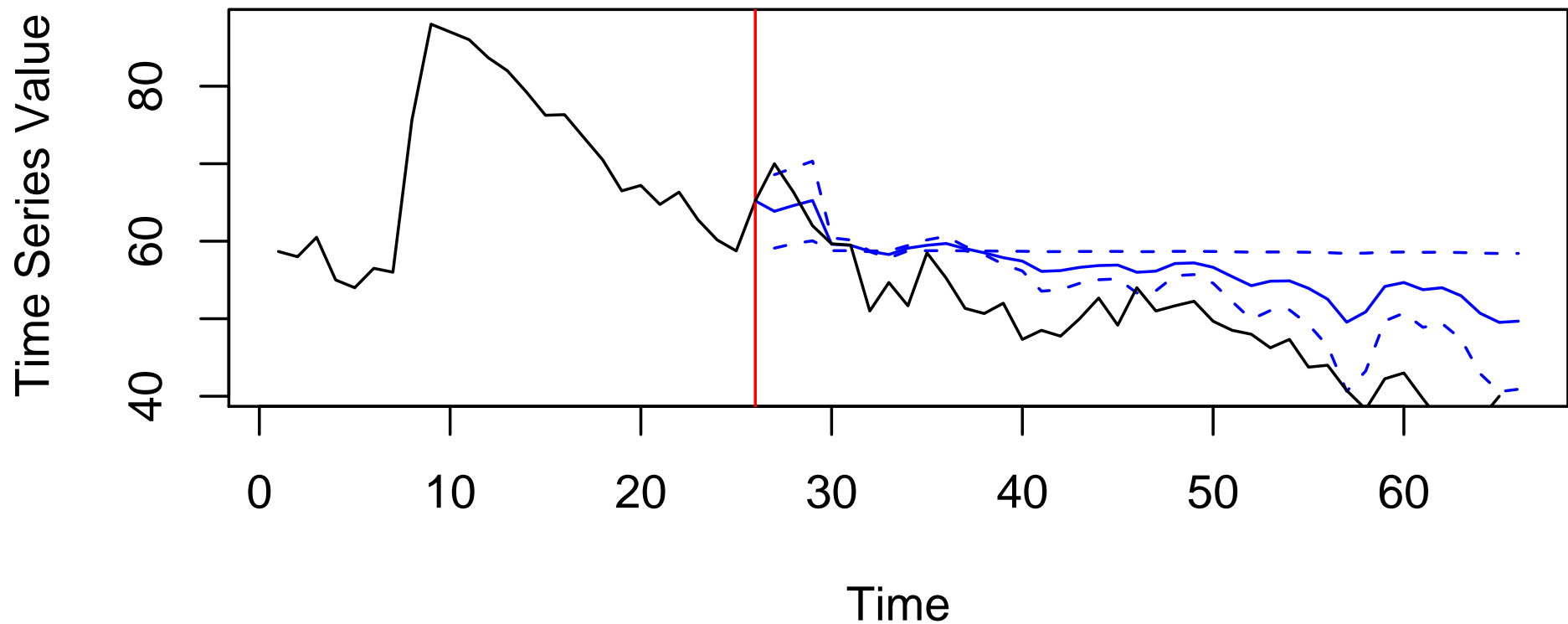
In black: Actual approval



Wait—can the model predict the long run approval rate?



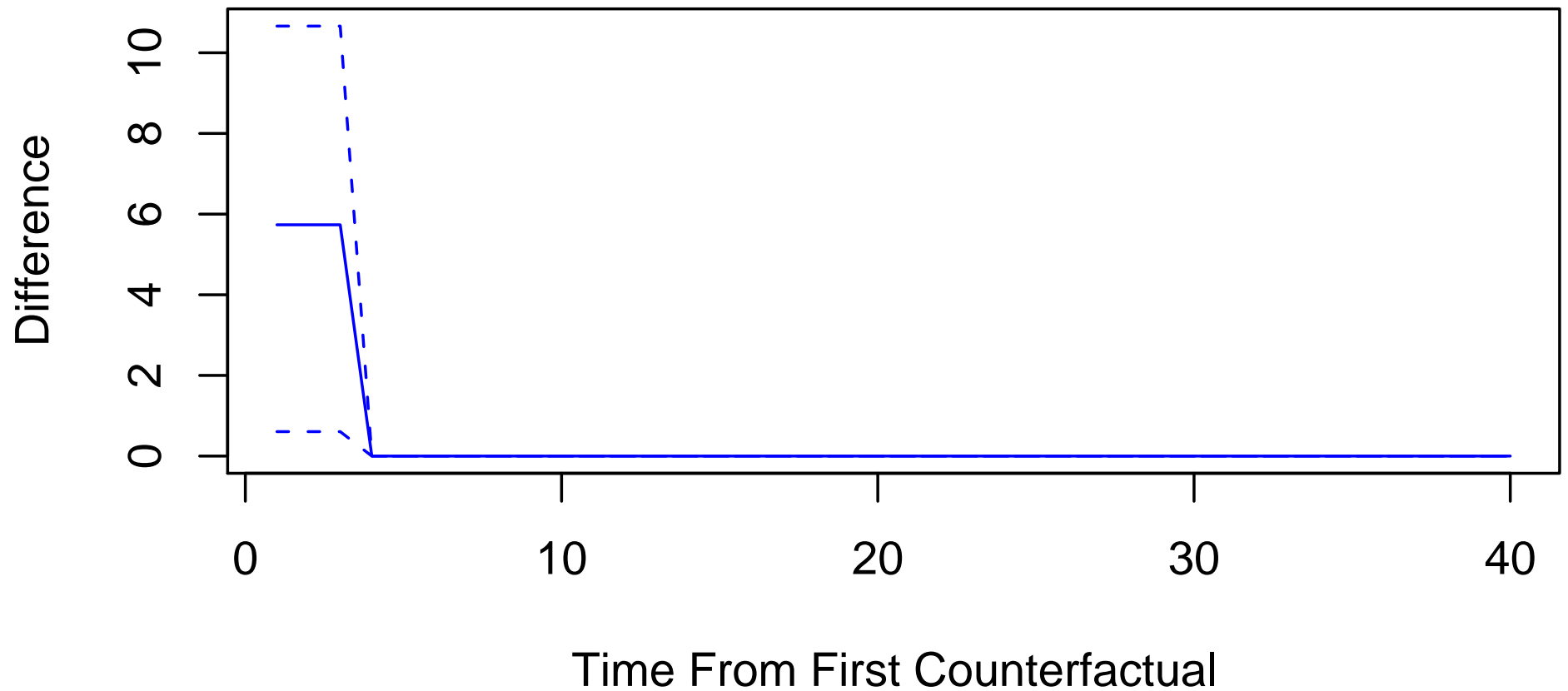
Wait—can the model predict the long run approval rate? Not even close



The model fit well for the first few months, then stays close to the ex ante “mean” approval

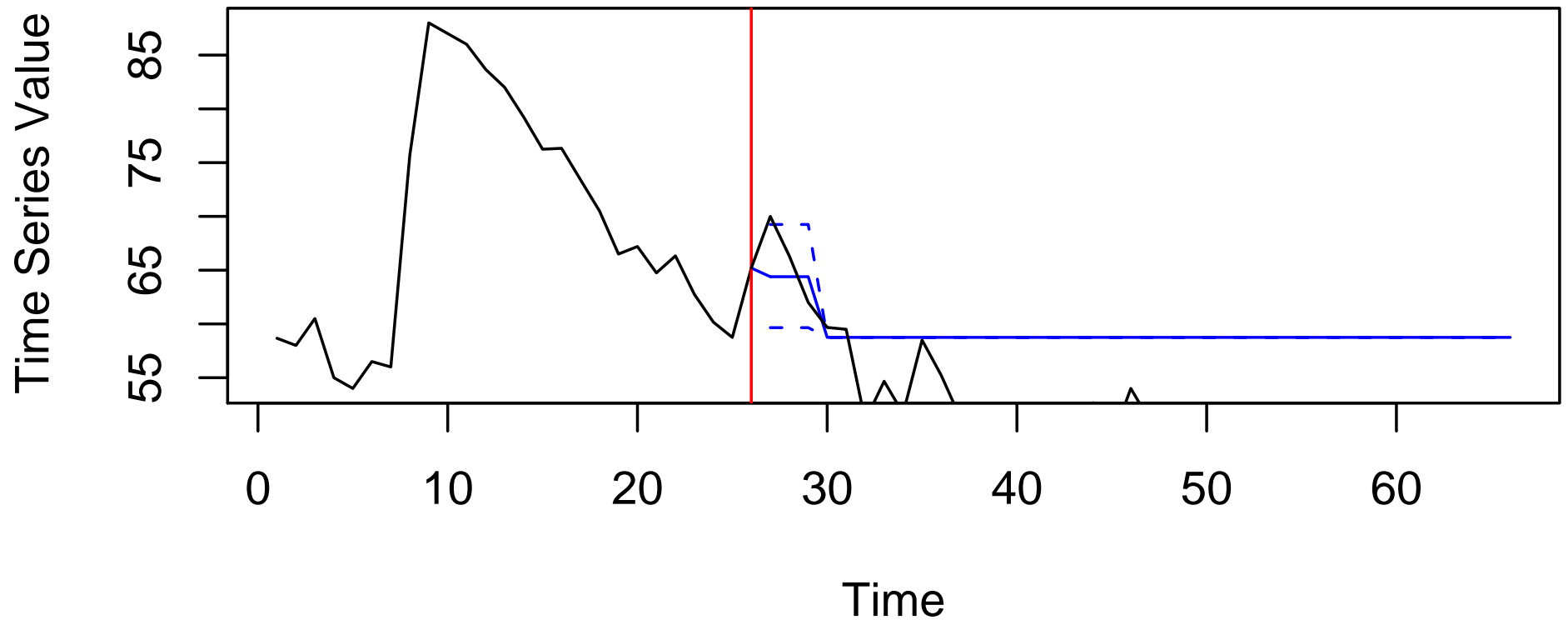
But reality (which is  $I(1)$ ) drifts off into the cellar

$$E[Y|X1] - E[Y|X]$$



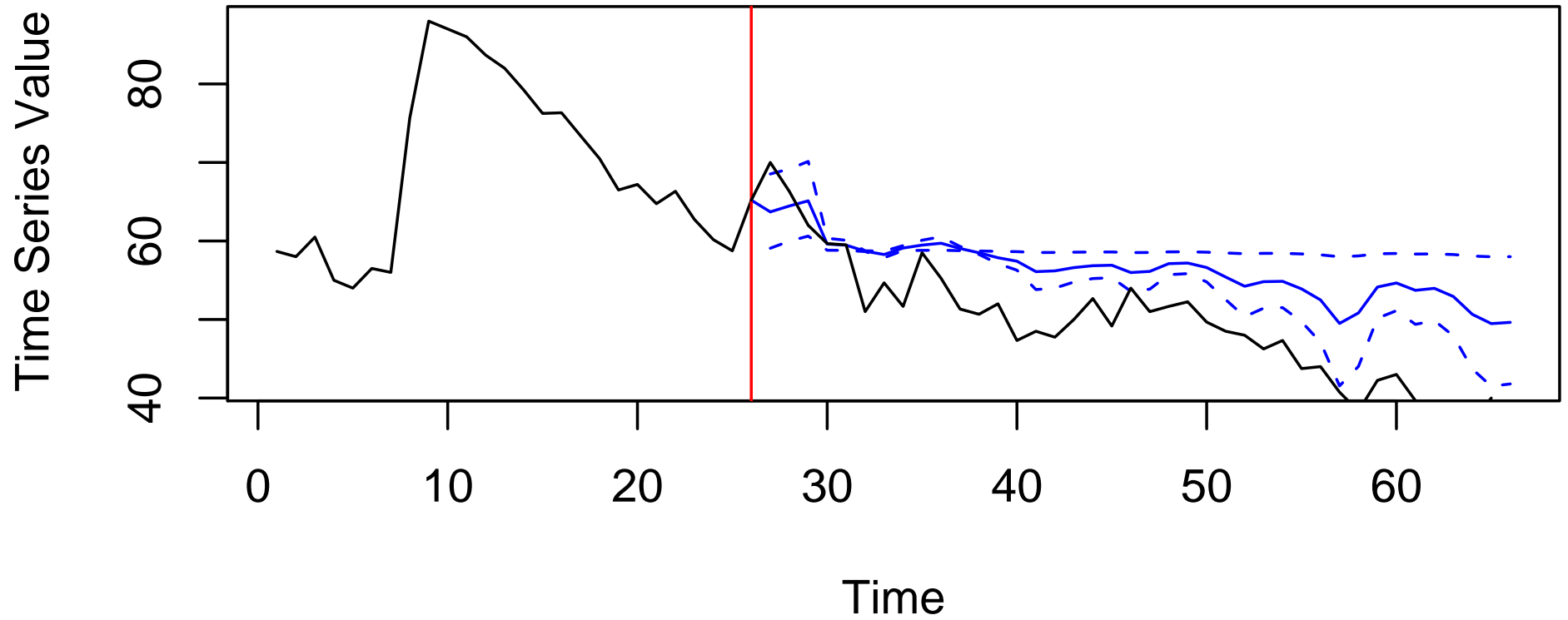
First differences show that all the action is in the short-run

Long-run predictions are not feasible with unit root processes



Suppose Oil had stayed at its pre-war price of \$161/barrel

Then Bush's predicted popularity looks higher than the data

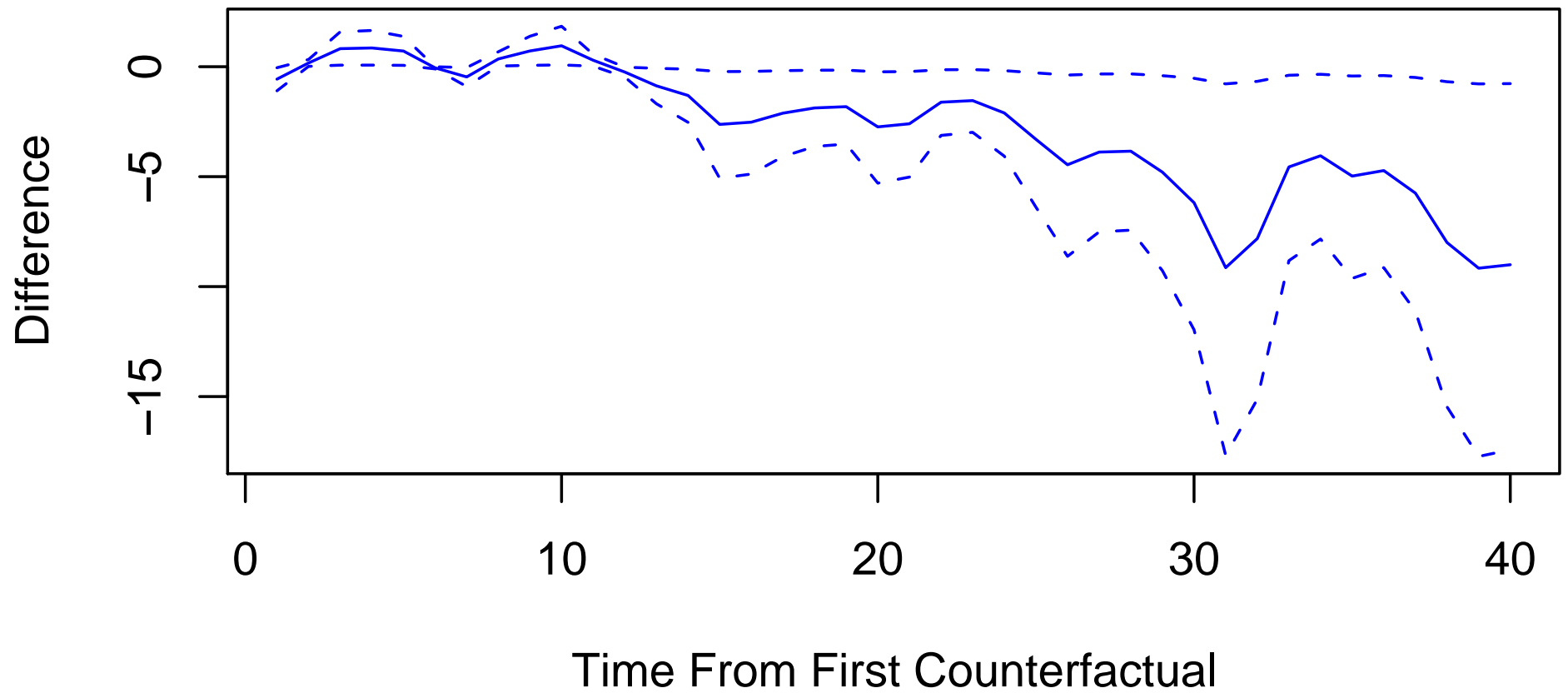


But wait—here are the factual “predictions” under the actual oil price

Miss the data by a mile



$$E[Y|X1] - E[Y|X]$$



## Limits of ARIMA

ARIMA(p,1,q) does a good job of estimating the short run movement of stationary variables

But does a terrible job with long-run levels

No surprise: The model includes no level information

While the observed level could drift anywhere

## Limits of ARIMA

Using  $\Delta y_t$  as our response has a big cost

Purging all long-run equilibrium relationships from our time series

These empirical long-run relationships may be spurious (why we're removing them)

But what if they are not? What if  $y_t$  and  $x_t$  really move together over time?

Then removing that long-run relationship removes theoretically interesting information from our data

Since most of our theories are about long-run levels of our variables, we have usually just removed the *most* interesting part of our dataset!

# Cointegration

Consider two time series  $y_t$  and  $x_t$ :

$$x_t = x_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$y_t = y_{t-1} + 0.6x_t + \nu_t$$

where  $\varepsilon_t$  and  $\nu_t$  are (uncorrelated) white noise

$x_t$  and  $y_t$  are both: AR(1) processes, random walks, non-stationary, and I(1).

They are not spuriously correlated, but genuinely causally connected

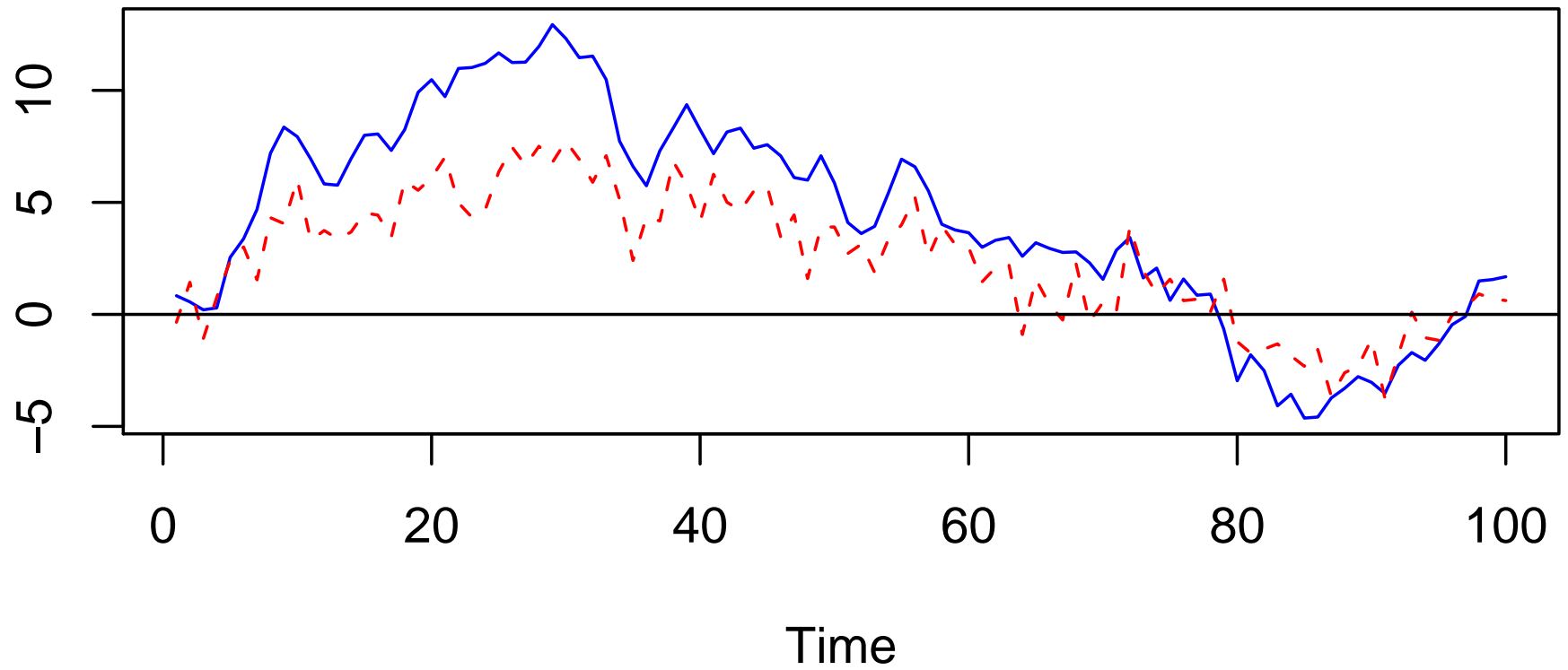
Neither tends towards any particular level, but each tends towards the other

A particularly large  $\nu_t$  may move  $y_t$  away from  $x_t$  briefly, but eventually,  $y_t$  will move back to  $x_t$ 's level

As a result, they will move together through  $t$  indefinitely

$x_t$  and  $y_t$  are said to be *cointegrated*

## Cointegrated I(1) variables



# Cointegration

Any two (or more) variables  $y_t, x_t$  are said to be cointegrated if

1. each of the variables is  $I(1)$
2. there is some vector  $\alpha$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} z_t &= \text{cbind}(y_t, x_t)\alpha \\ z_t &\sim I(0) \end{aligned}$$

or in words, there is some linear combination of the non-stationary variables which is stationary

There may be many cointegrating vectors;  
the cointegration rank  $r$  gives their number

## Cointegration: Engle-Granger Two Step

Several ways to find the cointegration vector(s) and use it to analyze the system

Simplest is Engle-Granger Two Step Method

Works best if cointegration rank is  $r = 1$

## Cointegration: Engle-Granger Two Step

Several ways to find the cointegration vector(s) and use it to analyze the system

Simplest is Engle-Granger Two Step Method

Works best if cointegration rank is  $r = 1$

**Step 1:** Estimate the cointegration vector by least squares with no constant:

$$y_t = \alpha_1^* x_{t-1} + \alpha_2^* x_{t-2} + \dots + \alpha_K^* x_{t-K} + z_t$$

This gives us the cointegrating vector  $\alpha = (1, -\alpha_1^*, -\alpha_2^*, \dots, -\alpha_K^*)$

and the long-run equilibrium path of the cointegrated variables,  $\hat{z}_t$

We can test for cointegration by checking that  $\hat{z}_t$  is stationary

Note that the usual unit root tests work, but with different critical values

This is because the  $\hat{\alpha}$ 's are very well estimated: “super-consistent”  
(converge to their true values very fast as  $T$  increases)



## Cointegration: Engle-Granger Two Step

### Step 2: Estimate an Error Correction Model

After obtaining the cointegration  $\hat{z}_t$  and confirming it is  $I(0)$ , we can estimate a particularly useful specification known as an *error correction model*, or ECM

ECMs simultaneously estimate long- and short-run effects for a system of cointegrated variables

Better than  $ARI(p,d)$  because we don't throw away level information

Interestingly, can be estimated with least squares

## Cointegration: Engle-Granger Two Step

For a bivariate system of  $y_t, x_t$ , two equations describe how this cointegrated process evolves over time:

$$\Delta y_t = \psi_0 + \gamma_1 \hat{z}_{t-1} + \sum_{j=1}^J \psi_{1j} \Delta x_{t-j} + \sum_{k=1}^K \psi_{2k} \Delta y_{t-k} + u_t$$

## Cointegration: Engle-Granger Two Step

For a bivariate system of  $y_t, x_t$ , two equations describe how this cointegrated process evolves over time:

$$\Delta y_t = \psi_0 + \gamma_1 \hat{z}_{t-1} + \sum_{j=1}^J \psi_{1j} \Delta x_{t-j} + \sum_{k=1}^K \psi_{2k} \Delta y_{t-k} + u_t$$

$$\Delta x_t = \zeta_0 + \gamma_2 \hat{z}_{t-1} + \sum_{j=1}^J \zeta_{1j} \Delta y_{t-j} + \sum_{k=1}^K \zeta_{2k} \Delta x_{t-k} + v_t$$

## Cointegration: Engle-Granger Two Step

For a bivariate system of  $y_t$ ,  $x_t$ , two equations describe how this cointegrated process evolves over time:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta y_t &= \psi_0 + \gamma_1 \hat{z}_{t-1} + \sum_{j=1}^J \psi_{1j} \Delta x_{t-j} + \sum_{k=1}^K \psi_{2k} \Delta y_{t-k} + u_t \\ \Delta x_t &= \zeta_0 + \gamma_2 \hat{z}_{t-1} + \sum_{j=1}^J \zeta_{1j} \Delta y_{t-j} + \sum_{k=1}^K \zeta_{2k} \Delta x_{t-k} + v_t\end{aligned}$$

These equations are the “error correction” form of the model

Show how  $y_t$  and  $x_t$  respond to deviations from their long run relationship

## Cointegration: Engle-Granger Two Step

Let's focus on the evolution of  $y_t$  as a function of its lags, lags of  $x_t$ , and the error in the long-run equilibrium,  $\hat{z}_{t-1}$ :

$$\Delta y_t = \psi_0 + \gamma_1 \hat{z}_{t-1} + \sum_{j=1}^J \psi_{1j} \Delta x_{t-j} + \sum_{k=1}^K \psi_{2k} \Delta y_{t-k} + u_t$$

## Cointegration: Engle-Granger Two Step

Let's focus on the evolution of  $y_t$  as a function of its lags, lags of  $x_t$ , and the error in the long-run equilibrium,  $\hat{z}_{t-1}$ :

$$\Delta y_t = \psi_0 + \gamma_1 \hat{z}_{t-1} + \sum_{j=1}^J \psi_{1j} \Delta x_{t-j} + \sum_{k=1}^K \psi_{2k} \Delta y_{t-k} + u_t$$

$\gamma_1 < 0$  must hold: This is the speed of adjustment back to equilibrium; larger negative values imply faster adjustment

This is the central assumption of cointegration:  
In the long run,  $y_t$  and  $x_t$  cannot diverge

So short-run differences must be made up later by convergence

For example,  $y_t$  must *eventually reverse course* after a big shift away from  $x_t$

$\gamma_1$  shows how quickly  $y_t$  reverse back to  $x_t$

## Cointegration: Engle-Granger Two Step

Recall our cointegrated time series,  $y_t$  and  $x_t$ :

$$x_t = x_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$y_t = y_{t-1} + 0.6x_t + \nu_t$$

To estimate the Engle-Granger Two Step for these data, we do the following in R:

```
set.seed(123456)

# Generate cointegrated data
e1 <- rnorm(100)
e2 <- rnorm(100)
x <- cumsum(e1)
y <- 0.6*x + e2

# Run step 1 of the E-G two step
coint.reg <- lm(y ~ x)
coint.err <- residuals(coint.reg)
```

```
# Make the lag of the cointegration error term
coint.err.lag <- coint.err[1:(length(coint.err)-2)]

# Make the difference of y and x
dy <- diff(y)
dx <- diff(x)

# And their lags
dy.lag <- dy[1:(length(dy)-1)]
dx.lag <- dx[1:(length(dx)-1)]

# Delete the first dy, because we are missing lags for this obs
dy <- dy[2:length(dy)]

# Estimate an Error Correction Model with LS
ecm1 <- lm(dy ~ coint.err.lag + dy.lag + dx.lag)
summary(ecm1)
```



Call:

```
lm(formula = dy ~ coint.err.lag + dy.lag + dx.lag)
```

Residuals:

| Min    | 1Q     | Median | 3Q    | Max   |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| -2.959 | -0.544 | 0.137  | 0.711 | 2.307 |

Coefficients:

|               | Estimate | Std. Error | t value | Pr(> t )    |
|---------------|----------|------------|---------|-------------|
| (Intercept)   | 0.0034   | 0.1036     | 0.03    | 0.97        |
| coint.err.lag | -0.9688  | 0.1585     | -6.11   | 2.2e-08 *** |
| dy.lag        | -1.0589  | 0.1084     | -9.77   | 5.6e-16 *** |
| dx.lag        | 0.8086   | 0.1120     | 7.22    | 1.4e-10 *** |

---

Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 1.03 on 94 degrees of freedom

Multiple R-squared: 0.546, Adjusted R-squared: 0.532

F-statistic: 37.7 on 3 and 94 DF, p-value: 4.24e-16

## Cointegration: Johansen estimator

Alternatively, we can use the `urca` package, which handles unit roots and cointegration analysis:

```
# Create a matrix of the cointegrated variables
```

```
cointvars <- cbind(y,x)
```

```
# Perform cointegration tests
```

```
coint.test1 <- ca.jo(cointvars,  
                     ecdet = "const",  
                     type="eigen",  
                     K=2,  
                     spec="longrun"  
                     )
```

```
summary(coint.test1)
```

```
# Check the cointegration rank here
```

```
# Using the output of the test, estimate an ECM
```

```
ecm.res1 <- cajorls(coint.test1,
```

```
    r = 1, # Cointegration rank
```

```
    reg.number = 1) # which variable(s) to put on LHS
```

```
    # (column indexes of cointvars)
```

```
summary(ecm.res1$rlm)
```

## Cointegration: Johansen estimator

```
#####
```

```
# Johansen-Procedure #
```

```
#####
```

Test type: maximal eigenvalue statistic (lambda max) , without linear t

Eigenvalues (lambda):

```
[1] 3.105e-01 2.077e-02 -1.400e-18
```

Values of teststatistic and critical values of test:

|        | test  | 10pct | 5pct  | 1pct  |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| r <= 1 | 2.06  | 7.52  | 9.24  | 12.97 |
| r = 0  | 36.44 | 13.75 | 15.67 | 20.20 |

Eigenvectors, normalised to first column:

(These are the cointegration relations)

|      | y.l2     | x.l2  | constant |
|------|----------|-------|----------|
| y.l2 | 1.00000  | 1.00  | 1.000    |
| x.l2 | -0.58297 | 10.13 | -1.215   |

constant -0.02961 -50.24 -38.501

Weights W:

(This is the loading matrix)

|     | y.l2      | x.l2      | constant   |
|-----|-----------|-----------|------------|
| y.d | -0.967715 | -0.001015 | -1.004e-18 |
| x.d | 0.002461  | -0.002817 | -2.899e-19 |

## Cointegration: Johansen estimator

Call:

```
lm(formula = substitute(form1), data = data.mat)
```

Residuals:

| Min    | 1Q     | Median | 3Q    | Max   |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| -2.954 | -0.536 | 0.150  | 0.712 | 2.318 |

Coefficients:

|       | Estimate | Std. Error | t value | Pr(> t )    |
|-------|----------|------------|---------|-------------|
| ect1  | -0.968   | 0.158      | -6.13   | 2.0e-08 *** |
| y.d11 | -1.058   | 0.108      | -9.82   | 4.1e-16 *** |
| x.d11 | 0.809    | 0.112      | 7.26    | 1.1e-10 *** |

---

Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 1.02 on 95 degrees of freedom

Multiple R-squared: 0.546, Adjusted R-squared: 0.532

F-statistic: 38.1 on 3 and 95 DF, p-value: 2.97e-16

## Example: Approval

Return to our Bush approval example, and estimate an ECM equivalent to the ARIMA(0,1,0) model we chose:

Residuals:

| Min    | 1Q     | Median | 3Q    | Max   |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| -7.140 | -1.675 | -0.226 | 1.643 | 5.954 |

Coefficients:

|               | Estimate | Std. Error | t value | Pr(> t ) |     |
|---------------|----------|------------|---------|----------|-----|
| ect1          | -0.1262  | 0.0301     | -4.20   | 9.4e-05  | *** |
| sept.oct.2001 | 19.5585  | 2.1174     | 9.24    | 5.4e-13  | *** |
| iraq.war      | 5.0187   | 1.6243     | 3.09    | 0.0031   | **  |
| approve.d11   | -0.3176  | 0.0945     | -3.36   | 0.0014   | **  |
| avg.price.d11 | -0.0505  | 0.0259     | -1.95   | 0.0561   | .   |

---

Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 2.67 on 58 degrees of freedom

Multiple R-squared: 0.63, Adjusted R-squared: 0.598

F-statistic: 19.8 on 5 and 58 DF, p-value: 1.91e-11